It's Our Rainbow Issue! Free Color-In Poster Inside

American Girl

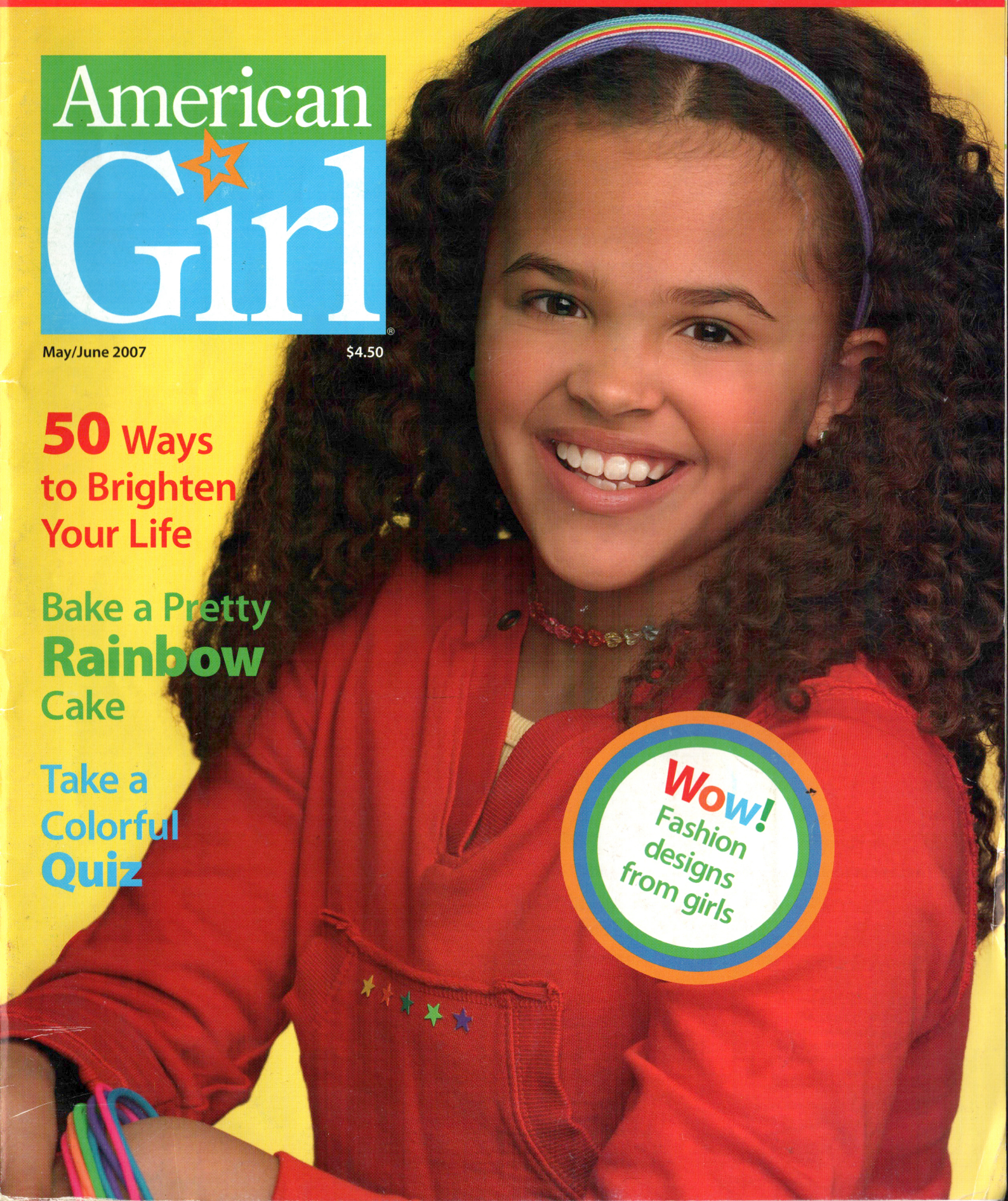
May/June 2007 $4.50

50 Ways to Brighten Your Life

Bake a Pretty Rainbow Cake

Take a Colorful Quiz

Wow! Fashion designs from girls



American Girl

Volume 15, Number 3

2 **Letters from You**
3 **Girls Express**
8 **Contest**
Rainbow Fashion
10 **Heart to Heart**
True Colors
12 **Friendship Matters**
Red-Faced?
14 **Let's Letter!**
16 **Green Girls**
20 **Quiz**
Why Are Jeans Blue?
22 **Color Your World**
28 **Cooking**
Colorful Cake
30 **Ally Ackerman, In the Pink**
38 **Brain Waves**
43 **Mini Mag**
45 **Posters**
47 **Help!**
49 **Behind the Scenes**
Plus: AG's Little Shop of Color Poster

See AG Online!
Visit americangirl.com to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine!
Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.

Colorful Cake
Make a sweet treat with a rainbow in every slice!

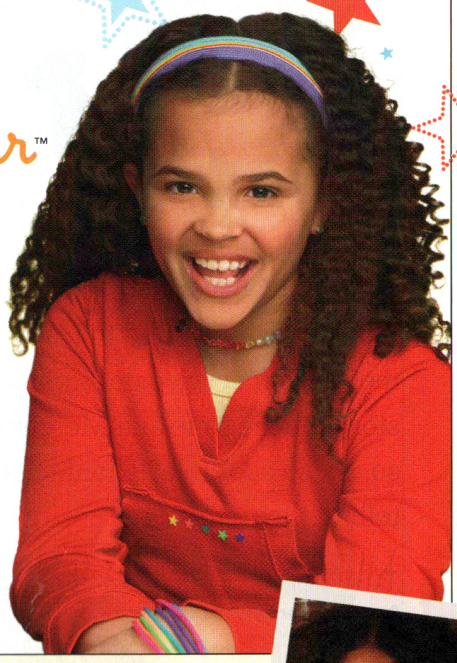
28

Green Girls
These girls are helping the environment. Find out how you can, too!

16

Contents

Follow Your Inner Star™



Red-Faced?
Readers share their most embarrassing friendship moments.

12

Color Your World
50 ways to brighten your life

22

About the Cover

Meet Busisiwe I., age 11. Her nickname is Bu. We asked her about rainbows.

Have you ever seen a real rainbow?
Yes, during a family road trip. My mom pointed it out to me.

If you could change the color of one thing in the world, what would it be?
I would change the clouds and make them purple. They would look really pretty against the blue sky.

What color best represents you?
Yellow, because my mom says I'm bright and energetic.

Busisiwe I.

For more about this issue, go to "Behind the Scenes" on page 49.

Cover photo: Steven Talley

Letters from You

Puppy Love

I loved "It Takes Two" in the January/February 2007 issue. I have always wanted to learn more about service dogs. Shea's story touched me and Mercer is so, so, so adorable! Thanks for telling their story.

Allie R.
Age 12, Pennsylvania

Clever Cards

I really liked the secret "Mirror Message" valentine idea from Brain Waves in the January/February issue. It gave me a great idea—I used it for other holidays, like my sister's birthday. Thank you!

Brittany C.
Age 10, Georgia

Bitty Books

I think the "I Love You, Mom" and "I Love You, Dad" Mini Books in the January/February issue were awesome. I made them for my mom and my dad and they loved them! Thank you, *American Girl*.

Amber M.
Age 11, Kentucky

Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

***American Girl* magazine**
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to readermail@americangirl.com. Either way, be sure to include your first and last name and your birth date. We can't print every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

Win It!

On page 27, you'll read about our latest Win It! contest. To enter, send a postcard by June 15 with your first and last name and address to:

Win It!—M/J 07
***American Girl* magazine**
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

Official Rules

1. Employees of American Girl and its affiliates and their families are not eligible.
2. Only one entry per family.
3. To be valid, all entries must be received by mail by June 15, 2007. Entries may not be faxed or e-mailed. **A parent or guardian must sign the entry.**
4. One winner will be chosen at random.
5. All entries become the property of American Girl and will not be returned.
6. Void where prohibited by law.

Illustrations: Mary Lynn Blasutta

American Girl®

President
Ellen L. Brothers
Vice President, Design and Development
Gina Beebe
Publisher
Diane Morgenthaler

Editorial Director
Michelle Nowadly Watkins
Executive Editor
Kristi Thom
Senior Managing Editor
Barbara E. Stretchberry
Lifestyle Editor
Jessica Hastreiter
Articles Editor
Mary Richards Beaumont
Associate Editor
Aubre Andrus
Contributing Editor
Therese Maring

Creative Manager
Julie Mierkiewicz
Senior Production Manager
Paula Moon
Associate Art Directors
Lara Klipsch Elliott, Dan Nordskog
Contributing Art Directors
Camela Decaire, Chris Lorette David
Master Graphic Artist
Virginia Gunderson

Contributing Writer
Patti Kelley Criswell

Marketing Managers
D'Ann Jackson, Shawn Niebeling
Business Analyst
Jodie Baber
Circulation Assistant
Heather Hempel

Special Thanks to
Meagan Eggers, Judith Lary, Will Mansfield IV, Jolene Schulz, Mark Speltz, Sally Wood

Cover Credits: Wardrobe styling: Carrie Griffin Boyd. Hair: Cindy Stutzel.

American Girl® (ISSN 1062-7812, Canadian Sales Agreement Number 40635507) is published bimonthly by American Girl Publishing, 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton, WI 53562.

Copyright © 2007 by American Girl, LLC. All rights reserved.

Subscription rates: One year (six issues) $22.95. Canadian subscriptions $29 U.S. Funds. Single issues (current or back copies) $4.50. Prices subject to change. Periodical postage paid at Madison, Wisconsin, and additional mailing offices. *Postmaster:* Send address changes to *American Girl*, P.O. Box 5534, Harlan, IA 51593-1034.

Customer Service: 1-800-234-1278. *Subscriber:* Send change of address information six weeks before moving to *American Girl*, P.O. Box 5534, Harlan, IA 51593-1034. Send old address label (recent mailing label is best), new address, and new telephone number, or call 1-800-234-1278. Occasionally, *American Girl* makes its list of adult and family names available to other reputable companies for their offering of products and services. We make every effort to ensure that girls' names are not included on this list. If you prefer not to receive such mail, please call our customer service department at 1-800-234-1278 or write to us at P.O. Box 620986, Middleton, WI 53562-0986.

Editorial Offices: American Girl, Editorial Department, P.O. Box 620986, Middleton, WI 53562-0986. American Girl Publishing cannot accept liability for loss or damage of photographs or other materials. Unsolicited materials will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All comments and suggestions received by *American Girl* become the sole property of American Girl Publishing and may be used without compensation or acknowledgment. All the instructions in *American Girl* have been tested by children and adults. Results from their testing were incorporated into the text. Because of differing tools, materials, conditions, and individual skills, the publisher disclaims liability for any injuries, losses, or other damages that may result from using information in this magazine. *American Girl®*, Follow Your Inner Star™, Girls Express®, and Mini Mag™ are trademarks of American Girl, LLC. American Girl trademarks cannot be used without the express written consent of American Girl, LLC. ISBN 978-1-59369-331-2.

American Girl is published by
American Girl Publishing
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562
E-mail address: readermail@americangirl.com
americangirl.com

Winner of a 2006 Parents' Choice Silver Award

The National Magazine Awards Finalist

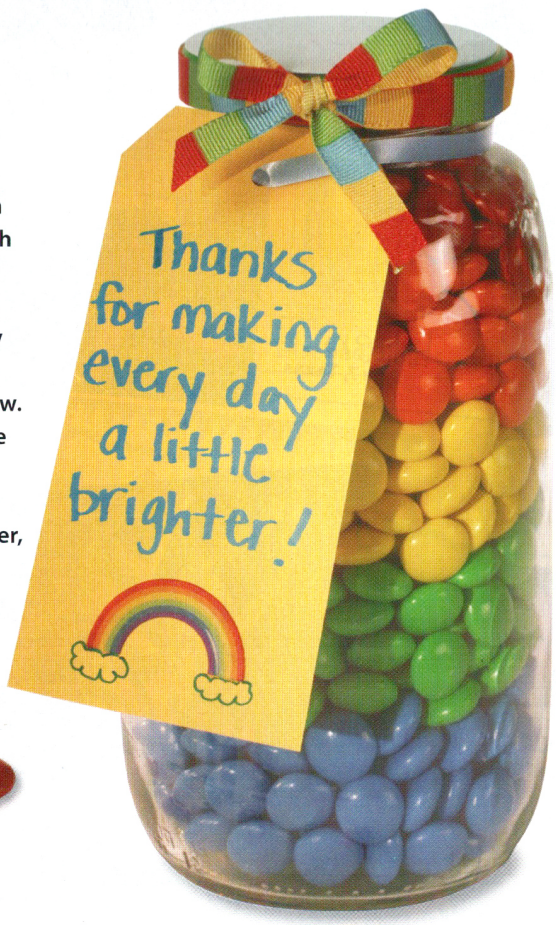
American Girl®

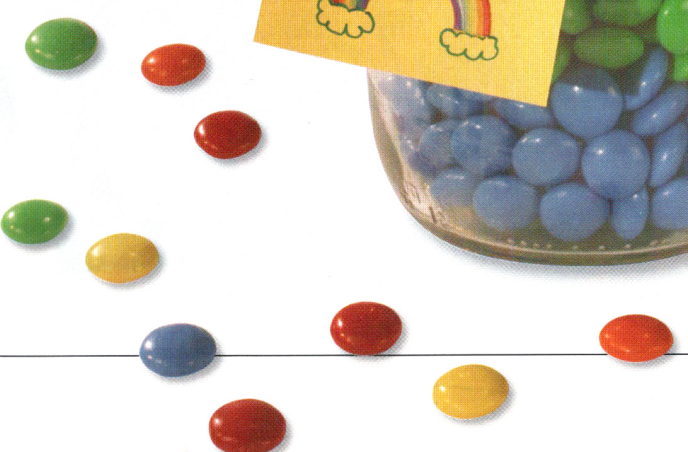
Girls EXPRESS

Rainbow in a Jar

Make this colorful craft for Mother's Day or Father's Day, or give one to a person at school who has made your year bright.

Cut a colorful piece of paper to fit on the lid of a clean jar. Attach the paper to the lid with double-sided tape. Wash your hands, and open a bag of brightly colored candies. Sort candies by color, and layer them in the jar to make a rainbow. Replace lid tightly. Write a sweet message on a piece of colored paper. Punch a hole in the paper, and attach the tag with a ribbon. Present your rainbow with a smile!





Did You Know?

You'll flip for these fun facts!

Red-dy to Win

Want a sports victory? Wear red! Researchers who studied different sports competitions found that players who wore red uniforms were more likely to win. Even a bit of red might help—see if you can wear red wristbands or hair ribbons.

Buzzword

kaleidoscopic

How to say it: kah-lied-oh-SKAH-pik

What it means: having a quality of changing colors or patterns

One way to use it: The backstage area at the musical was a kaleidoscopic sight, with each costume more colorful than the last.

The buzzword is tucked into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? The answer is on page 42.

Find It!

Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

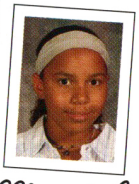
Photo: Salisbury Studios Illustrations: Tracey Wood

We're looking for **artwork** for our gallery. Send color **copies** of your original artwork to the address on page 2. Sorry, we can't return **entries.**

AG Art Gallery

Readers used every color of the rainbow in their artwork.

Emily H.
Age 11, Hawaii



Mariah T.
Age 12, Colorado

Daray H.
Age 13, Kansas

Ellen T.
Age 7, Texas

Courtney A.
Age 10, Illinois

Maddy K.
Age 10, Virginia

True Story

Elise brings a splash of color to her grandma's yard.

Dear American Girl,

Last summer, my grandmother asked me to do a painting on her back fence. I was really excited. It was my first time painting on anything but plain white paper, and immediately I began to think of ideas. I decided to paint a picture of my dog, Ginger, on a surfboard—after all, Grandma's house is at the beach.

I primed the fence with help from my uncle and brother. When the primer was dry, I opened the first can of color and went wild! My relatives set up chairs so that they could sit and watch me work, and of course Ginger was watching, too.

My painting took about six hours to finish, and I was happy with the way it came out. It was a great way to spend my vacation!

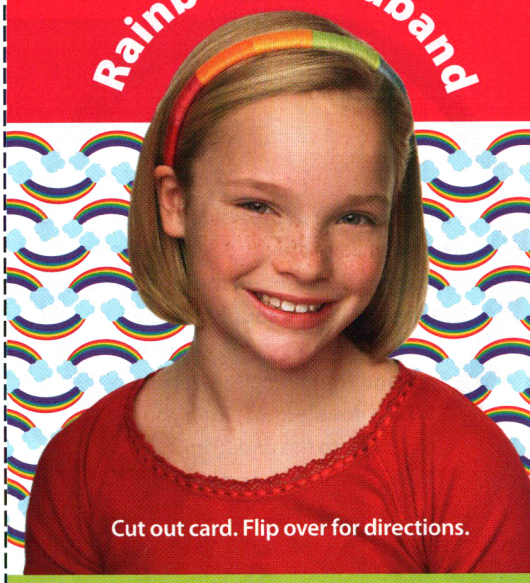
Sincerely,
Elise B.
Age 13, Vermont

Elise and Ginger

Here's the finished painting!

Creative Corner

Rainbow Headband

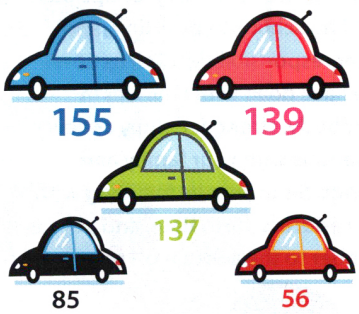


Cut out card. Flip over for directions.

Cut out your answer and mail it to the address on page 2.

AG Poll

In our November/December issue, we asked you the color of your dream car. Here's what you told us:



Next question:

Do you like to make a wish list for relatives or to be completely surprised by the gifts you get? Circle your choice.

* I wish for...

* Surprise me!

Rainbow Headband

Place a piece of double-sided tape on each end of a headband. Begin wrapping embroidery floss around the headband. Switch colors every couple of inches by tying two pieces of floss together and continuing to wrap. Tie a double knot when you get to the end. Trim any stray ends.

Photos: Salisbury Studios, Steven Talley Styling: Cindy Stutzel

Help Wanted!

Are you an older AG reader who has some advice to share with younger girls? Tell us what you wish you'd known when you were younger. We're looking for tips on tackling school, babysitting, and other responsibilities. Tell us how you have dealt with changes in your body, strong feelings, or new situations with your family and friends. Send your letter along with your address, birth date, and phone number to the address on page 2.

Rainbow in Nature

Red shouts from the
robin's chest.
Orange warms the fire.
Yellow's a radiant,
dazzling light.
Green is nature's desire.
Blue flings its life
at the sky.
Purple enters
the sunrise painting.
Pink whispers
across the garden.
I love all these colors
That nature's creating.

Mikaela P.
Age 12, Washington

Color Confusion

Have you ever noticed an unfamiliar name used to describe a color but then discovered that the *crimson* crayon was just red? See if you can match the unusual name to the color it describes.

1 saffron (SAF-run) _____

2 sepia (SEEP-ee-yuh) _____

3 fuchsia (FYOO-shuh) _____

4 viridian (vuh-RIH-dee-un) _____

5 heliotrope (HEE-lee-uh-trope) _____

6 cerulean (suh-ROO-lee-un) _____

7 onyx (ON-iks) _____

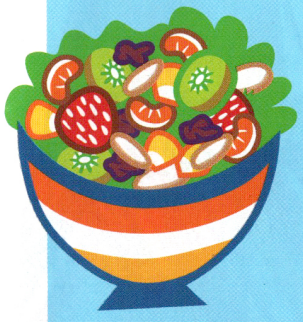
Answers on page 42.

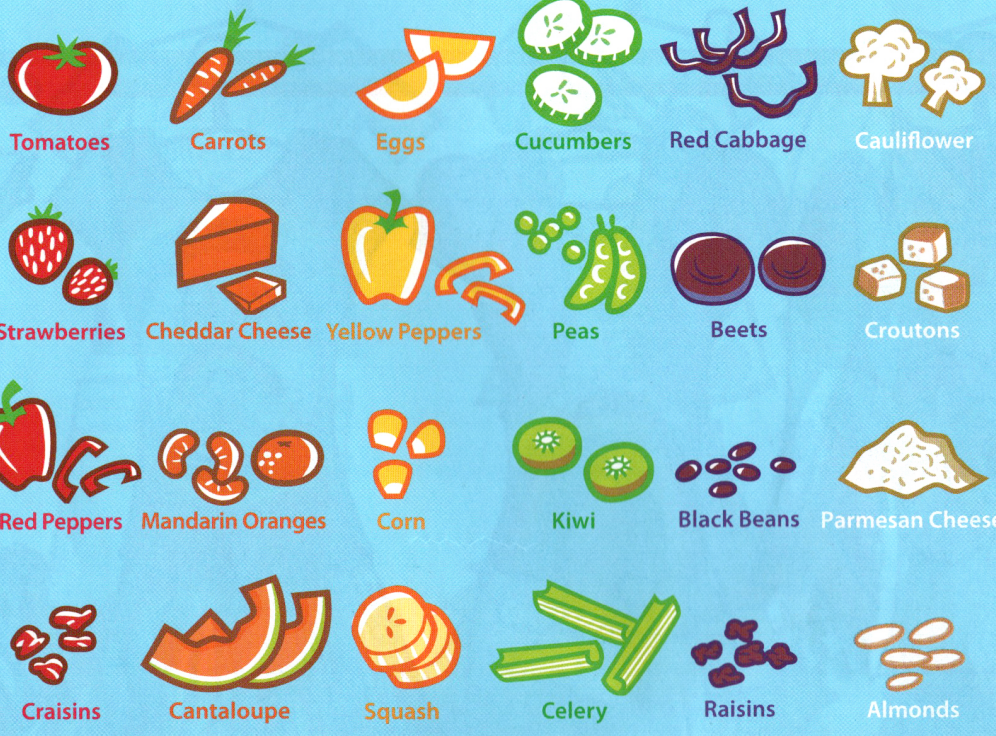
Lunch Box

Make a yummy—and healthy—rainbow salad. Start with a plain bowl of lettuce, and mix and match your favorite flavors.

Reds: **Oranges:** **Yellows:** **Greens:** **Purples:** **Whites:**

Try a sweet raspberry vinaigrette dressing with your salad. It'll taste good with all of these fruits and veggies!





Shining Star

Lots of people in Emily V.'s life had breast cancer. Her grandma had it. Her friend's mom had it, and so did a friend of Emily's mom. "To find a cure, they need money," Emily said of cancer researchers. "So I thought that I could help."

Emily's hobby was decorating flip-flops, and she decided to turn her fun activity into a charity project. She began adorning flip-flops with fabric, fleece, and ribbons, all in pink. (That's the color that represents breast cancer research.) Emily expanded her project to include pink-trimmed socks, hats, bracelets, and more. The Illinois 12-year-old gets help making the items from friends and her mom, and she sells her pink products at craft shows, at parties, and at church. She's raised more than $2,000 so far and has donated all of the money to cancer research.

"I think it's great," Emily says of her project's success. "It's nice that people enjoy the stuff and that you can help at the same time."

Pink is everywhere in Emily's crafts!

Photo: Steve Johnston

You can shine, too. What's important to you? Whether it's helping animals, fighting hunger, or finding a cure for a disease, pick a cause that speaks to your heart. Then find out how you can help.

Contest

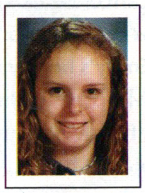
Rainbow Fashion

These clothing designs are creative, cute—and colorful!

Alexandra L.
Age 11, Florida

Emily D.
Age 13, Ohio

Rebecca T.
Age 11, Massachusetts



Tori B.
Age 12, Utah

Check out the back of the color-in poster between pages 24 and 25 for more fashions designed by AG readers!

Sara L.
Age 12, New Hampshire

Marisa L.
Age 9, Ohio

Hayley D.
Age 12, Virginia

Sadie R.
Age 10, New Jersey

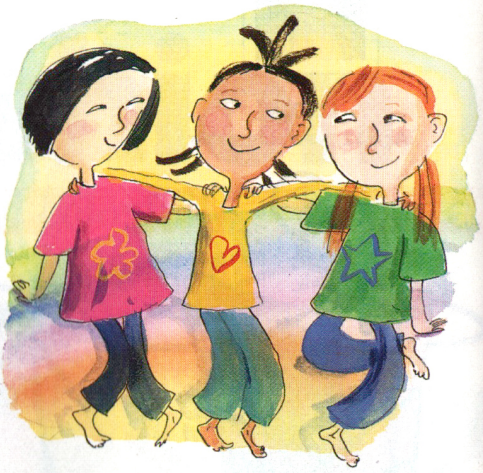
Illustrations: Lauren Scheuer

Next Contest: Snowless Snowmen

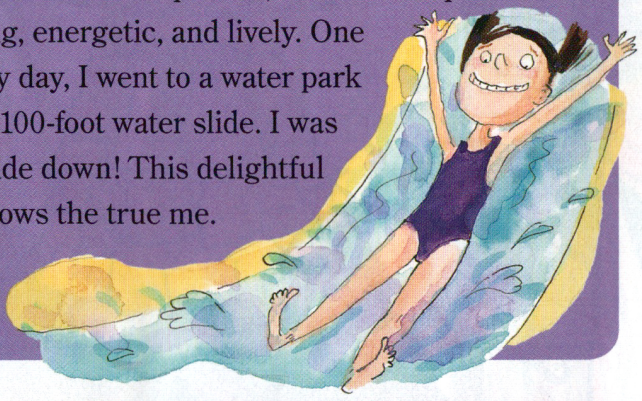
Why wait for another cold and snowy winter to build a snowman? Sculpt a snowman out of anything but snow—sand, tomatoes, basketballs—the more creative, the better! Make sure to tell us the name of your fake Frosty. Send your photos to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, and birth date. Deadline: June 11, 2007. Winners will appear in the November/December 2007 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.

True Colors

If you were a color, which one would you be and why? These girls make up a rainbow of AG readers—from red to green to purple!



The color that suits me best is purple. Purple is passionate and respectful, like me! Purple can be daring, energetic, and lively. One sunny day, I went to a water park with a really steep 100-foot water slide. I was brave enough to slide down! This delightful yet daring color shows the true me.



Alexandra C.
Age 9, New Jersey

I am green because I like being outside in the fresh air and the sunshine. I love animals and bright, cheery flowers. I love to lie on the soft, green grass and watch the clouds.

Rachel K.
Age 10, Michigan

I would describe myself as the color orange, because sometimes I can be fiery and outgoing, and I am also bright and cheerful. I pick orange because I am a mixture of things—just as orange is a mixture of red and yellow.

Gabrielle E.
Age 12, Louisiana

I am magenta because it is not your everyday red, blue, or yellow. It isn't very popular, but it's not dull. It's different, like me. It is bold, bright, and beautiful. Girls should stop being primary and venture out to the exotic colors!

Allie W.
Age 12, Illinois

Sometimes I'm a light blue, like the early morning sky after sunrise—calm and serene. Other days I'm a vivid blue—the brightest blue you can imagine. I'm very perky on those days!

Kylie H.
Age 11, Arizona

Big Truth

The true you always shines the brightest.

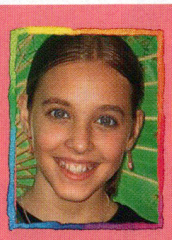
I am hot pink! I love acting and being in front of huge crowds. I'm always willing to try something new. I've always wanted to go sky-diving or bungee jumping.

Nora S.
Age 11, Maryland

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Winter birthdays. Celebrating a birthday during the holidays can be tough. Is your birthday overshadowed by Hanukkah, Christmas, or New Year's? What is the best and worst part about sharing your day with a holiday? How do you make your birthday special?

Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to the address on page 2. Deadline: June 11, 2007. Some answers will appear in the November/December 2007 issue. ★

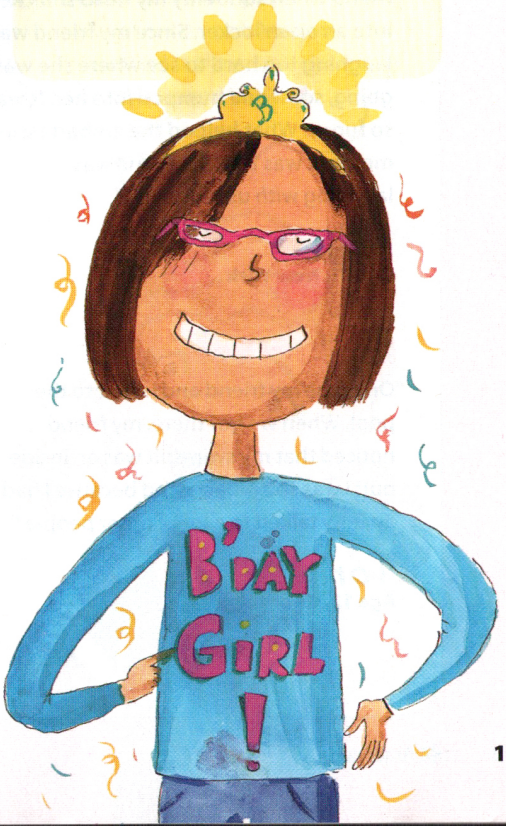


If I had to describe myself as a color, I would definitely be red. I have a quick temper, I always say what I am thinking, and I am very bold and daring. All of these characteristics match the color red.

Breanna R.
Age 11, Florida

All girls are all of the colors of the rainbow. We show lots of emotions every day. Sometimes we are bold and daring, like red. Sometimes we are yellow—smiling and happy. I know that I am not just one color!

Rachel W.
Age 13, Virginia



Illustrations: Laura Cornell

Red-Faced?

What's the most embarrassing thing that's happened to you and a friend? These girls share their tales.

Look Out!

"I was walking down the hall with my friend when suddenly my head smacked into an open locker. Since my friend was laughing too hard to see where she was going, someone bumped into her. It was so funny. What helped the embarrassing moment was that everyone was laughing *with* us, not *at* us."

Lillie
Age 11, New York

Bathing Beauty

"One time my friend and I went to the pool. When we got there, my friend noticed that my swimsuit was on inside out! I was so embarrassed because I had already talked to a lot of other people."

Tori
Age 13, Georgia

Great Salesgirl

"My friend Rebecca and I always participate in the annual Spring Arts Festival where you make things (jewelry, paintings, etc.) and sell them. One year, we were selling necklaces. A lady bought a $2.00 necklace and gave us $10.00. I thought she was just being nice, but she expected change. So I said, 'Thank you! No one else has done that today.' She just stood there waiting for the change, not knowing what I was talking about. When I found out that she wasn't giving it just to be nice, I was so embarrassed."

Julie
Age 12, Florida

Singing to Strangers

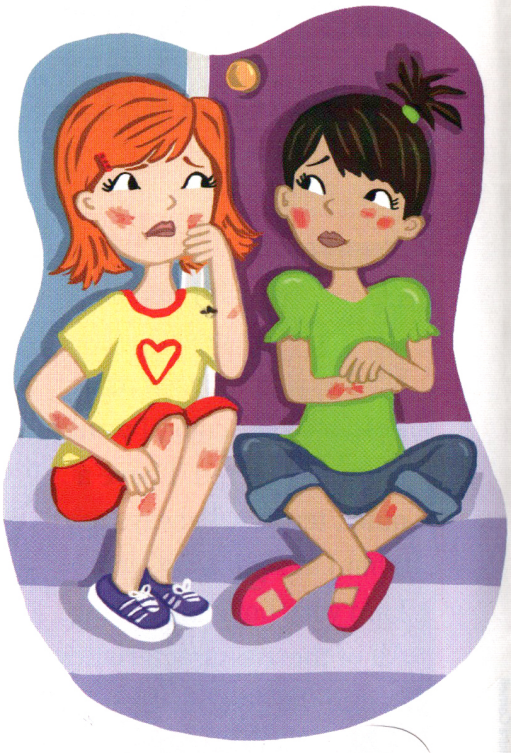
"It was our friend Kat's birthday, so my friend Mary and I called her to wish her a good birthday, but Mary dialed the wrong number. Mary asked the person who she was. The lady said her name was Pat, and thinking it was Kat, Mary sang 'Happy Birthday' to her! When Mary finished singing, the lady told her that her name was Pat, not Kat, and Mary was *sooo* embarrassed."

K.H.
Age 12, Oregon

Itchy Situation

"My friend and I had a fort in the woods. We were playing in it one day and apparently we both got into poison ivy. The next day at school I began itching really badly. When I got home that afternoon, I met up with my friend, who also had a big puffy face. We laugh about it now, but having it in school was very embarrassing."

Mickinley
Age 12, Massachusetts



Birthday Bummer

"One time I was at my friend's birthday party and she was shocked to find out that the present I gave her was actually for my baby cousin. My mom had given me the wrong present!"

Sarah
Age 10, New Mexico

Big Bad Boots

"When my friend and I first see each other every morning, we run to each other in slow motion. One day I was wearing big boots to school, so when I began to run toward her, I fell flat on my face! I was so embarrassed and my face turned so red. I got up and started to laugh. Now every time we do it, my friend pretends to trip and fall and makes fun of me."

Tara
Age 11, Utah

Recipe for Laughs

"My friend Brittany and I were making cookies one afternoon. We forgot to spray the pan, so the cookies got completely stuck to it. My mom couldn't even remove them. We ended up sitting on the floor and eating the cookies right off the pan. It was funny, but embarrassing."

Lauren
Age 11, California

Attention, Shoppers

"One time my best friend and I were at a grocery store with her mom. We went to the bathroom and got completely lost. We could not find her mom anywhere. We were just wandering around the store when we heard a voice over the intercom calling our names and telling us to meet her mom at the checkout counter. We still look back and laugh at how funny we must have looked."

Madison
Age 12, Ohio

In Full Swing

"I was at the beach with my friend and I decided to go to the swings at the playground. The regular swings were taken, so I hopped into the baby swing. I got stuck, and my friend's big sister and another friend's big brother had to pull me out! Now I steer clear of swings."

Elizabeth
Age 11, Washington

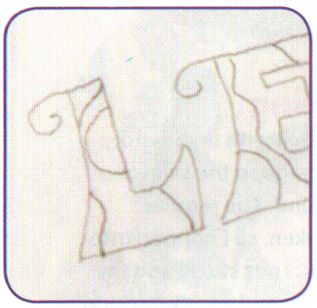
An embarrassing moment is a lot easier to take when a friend is there to help you laugh it off! ★

Illustrations: Cathi Mingus

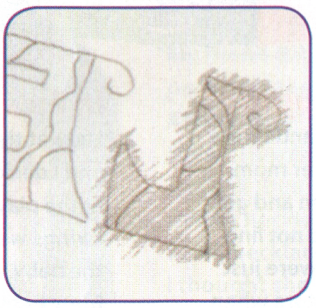
Let's Letter!

Turn an average alphabet into a rainbow of letters.

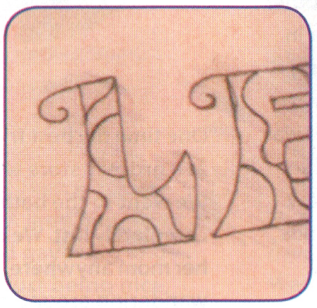
Tips for Getting Started



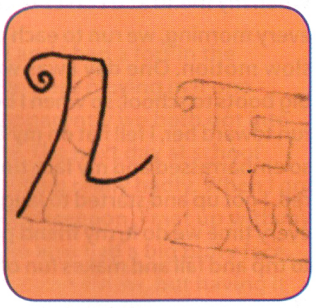
1 Lightly draw your design onto tracing paper. Don't press too hard—it might take a couple of tries to get the design just right.



2 Next, rub pencil lead lightly over the back of the tracing paper.



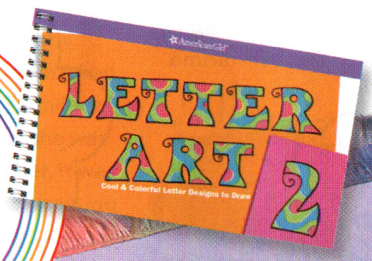
3 Turn the tracing paper over again (shaded-side down) and tape it onto your final surface.



4 Use a pencil to draw over the exact lines of your drawing, and then remove the tracing paper.

The pencil lead you rubbed on the back of the paper will leave a faint outline on your final project. Use it as a guide, and start coloring!

These bright alphabets and more can be found in Letter Art 2, available in bookstores.



Extra Chunky

Funky, chunky letters with style.

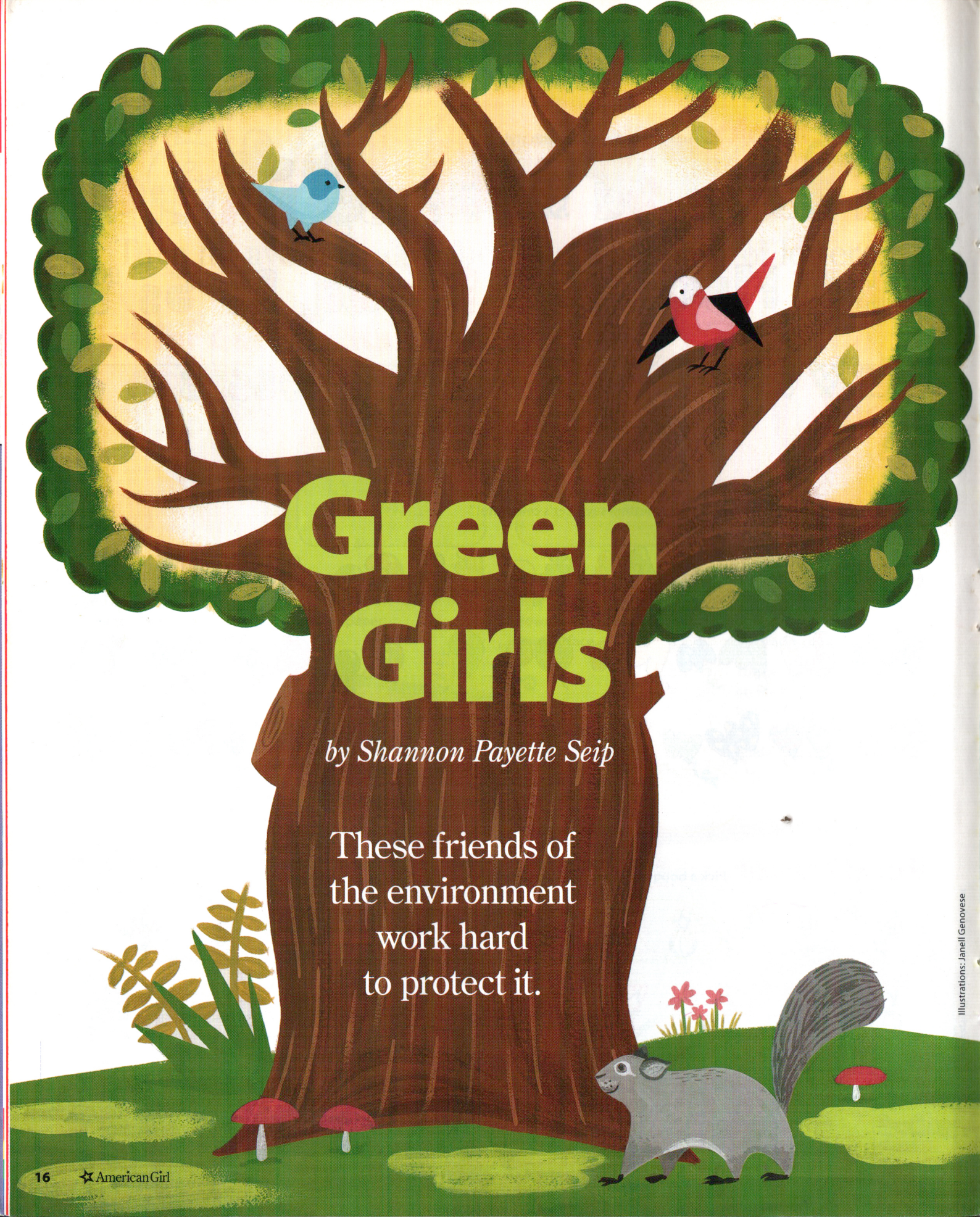
Ballooney

Balloon-shaped letters say, "Let's celebrate!"

Petal Power

Pick a bouquet or let a garden grow.

Photos: Radlund Photography Illustrations: Lauren Scheuer



Green Girls

by Shannon Payette Seip

These friends of the environment work hard to protect it.

Illustrations: Janell Genovese

Photo: Bruce Forster

Woods Work

Sabra M. has some really tall neighbors—they're more than 250 feet tall, to be exact. The California girl lives near thick forests of redwood trees, which are the tallest plants in the world.

Sabra, 12, loves the redwoods and the forest creatures so much that each summer she works as a junior ranger, going into the forest almost every day in the summertime. "We learn about the animals and their habitats, geology, and the environment of the redwoods," explains the outdoor adventurer, who counts a tiny endangered bird called the marbled murrelet as her favorite forest dweller.

Junior rangers help pick up trash around campsites, go on nature hikes, and learn the park rules, such as staying on the trails. "If you don't stay on the trails, you can cause erosion and ruin the animals' habitats," warns Sabra, whose mom also was a junior ranger when she was young. "We need to learn to care for the earth."

At nighttime, the junior rangers help put on educational programs for all of the families at the campsites. Sabra is passionate about teaching others to respect the great outdoors: "It's important to me to help so that the parks are preserved for many generations to come."

Go Green! Here are some ways that you can help the environment:

- *Ask a parent if you can organize a cleanup of a park or other area in your neighborhood.*
- *As a family, plant a tree. Trees help keep the air clean and give wildlife food and shelter.*

- *Ask a parent to help you research how to adopt an endangered animal online.*
- *Turn off the faucet when you're brushing your teeth to conserve water.*

Marine Mission

When Isabel D. was figuring out what present to get for her friend Gabe's birthday, she wasn't thinking about a new video game or race car. Isabel got Gabe a manatee!

Gabe loves the friendly underwater creatures, and he had shown Isabel a Web site that lets each visitor "adopt" a manatee by sending money to help pay for its protection.

As Isabel did research for Gabe's present, she decided that she wanted to help more manatees. "I saw how endangered manatees are and how they're sometimes ignored," says the Pennsylvania girl.

So she and Gabe formed a Save the Manatee Club at school to raise money to adopt more manatees. "We had a goal of adopting seven manatees, but we didn't think we'd even make it to one," admits Isabel, age 11.

Isabel and Gabe did a presentation about manatees and used the school's PA system to talk about the creatures. "You need to spread awareness," Isabel advises. "If nobody knows about your cause, they won't care."

The club organized coin drives. It also sold manatee-themed products such as T-shirts. Isabel and Gabe's efforts paid off. The school raised enough to adopt 16 manatees—more than twice their goal!

"It felt really great," Isabel says. "My school helped to make a big difference!"

Photo: Michael Ray

Today, only about 3,000 manatees are left in the United States.

Photo: Drake Sorey

Most girls don't like to think about garbage. But trash was all that Julia U. had on her mind after her science class had spent time learning about natural resources.

"I realized that our school didn't have recycling bins," says the 9-year-old Maryland girl. "If we don't recycle, more trees will get chopped down, and that means more animals need to find new shelter."

Julia knew just where to turn for help in getting recycling bins at school. Her older sisters were on the student council. Julia gave a speech to the council about how the bins could help the earth.

The student council formed a recycling committee and got to work, with Julia's help. "I did online research about what companies offer bins," she remembers. Finally, Julia heard that the bins had been ordered.

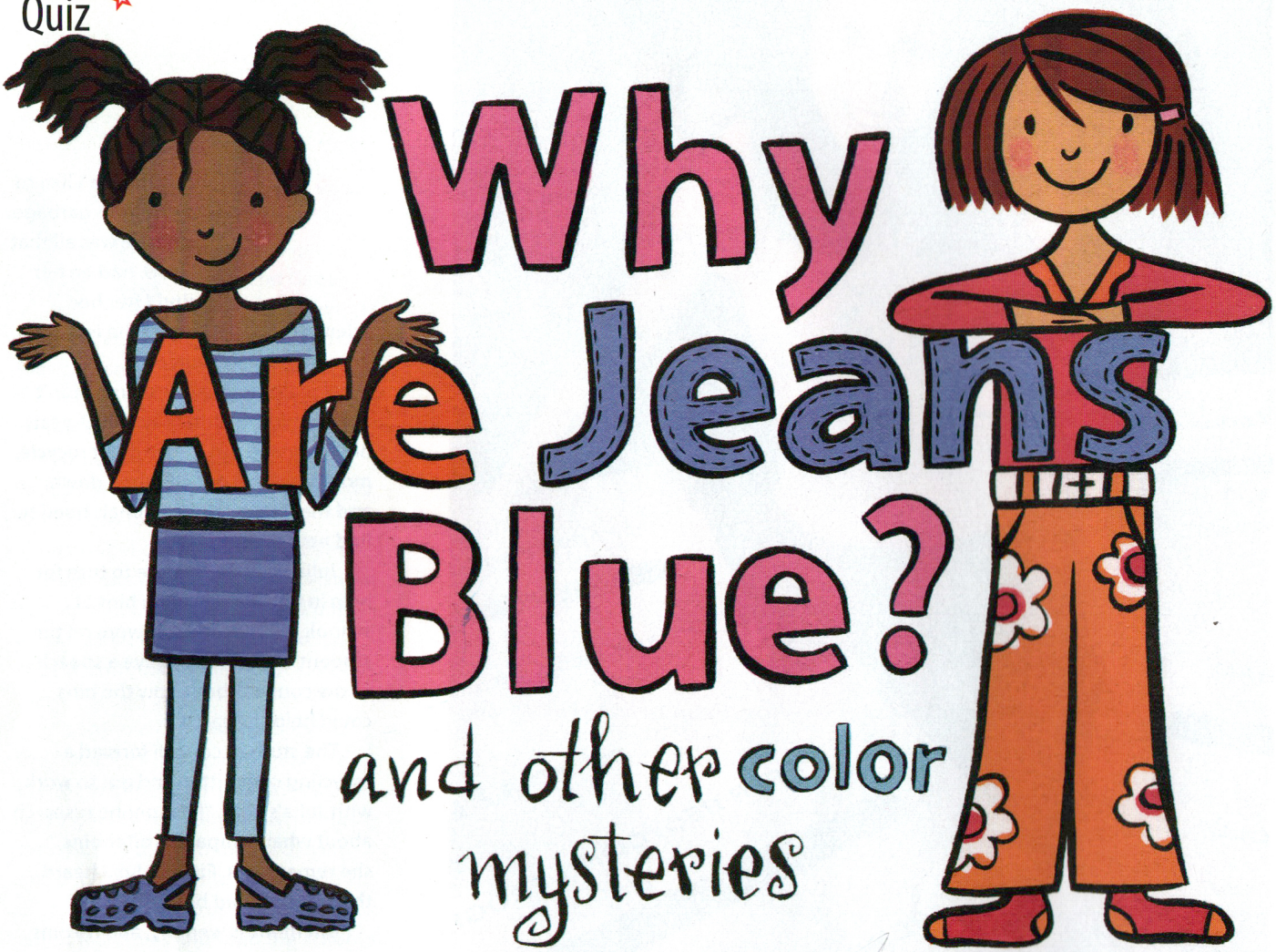
But months went by, and no bins arrived. By summer vacation, Julia worried that the school had forgotten about her recycling mission. But when Julia walked down the hall on the first day of school the next year, she could not believe her eyes. Recycling bins sat outside all of the school's classrooms. "I thought to myself, 'I did that! I did that!'" Julia exclaims.

Now she is happy to report that her school recycles more than 250 pounds of paper each week. "It makes me feel proud!" ★

Paper Pursuit

- *Use a cloth lunch bag instead of paper lunch bags, and carry food in reusable plastic containers, not bags.*
- *Use both sides of the paper when writing, and use the flip sides of printed paper that otherwise would be recycled.*

Quiz



Why Are Jeans Blue?

and other color mysteries

1. Blue cloth is used for jeans because brown wasn't comfy.

True **False**

2. Most babies are born with blue eyes.

True **False**

3. Colored toothpaste cleans your teeth better than plain white toothpaste does.

True **False**

4. The color orange was named after the fruit.

True **False**

5. The White House used to have blue trim.

True **False**

6. Flamingos' feathers are colored pink to protect their fragile skin from the sun.

True **False**

7. A polar bear's fur looks white, but its skin is black.

True **False**

8. Real gold will never tarnish or lose its rich color.

True **False**

9. Zebras' black and white stripes help them blend into their habitat.

True **False**

It takes 570 gallons of paint—white, of course—to cover the outside of the White House.

Answers

1. True! The first jeans were available in two kinds of fabric—indigo blue denim and a brown cotton material called "duck." Unlike denim, duck never became softer with every wash, so it wasn't popular with buyers. Blue denim won out!

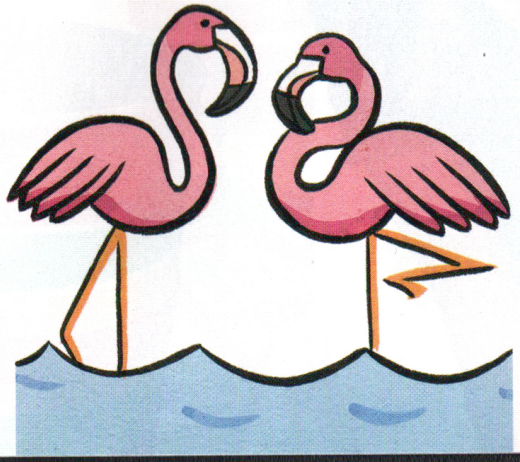
2. True! That happens because the protein in your body that gives your hair, skin, and eyes any brownish color has not yet made it to your eyes when you are born. Your eyes become the color they will be for life by the time you are about six months old.

3. False. Toothpaste is colored only to make it more interesting to the people who use it—the color doesn't serve any other purpose.

4. True! Before English-speaking people knew of the fruit, the color was called *geoluhread* in Old English. That translates as "yellow-red" in today's English. (Believe it or not, *geoluhread* and yellow-red are pronounced the same way.)

5. False. However, the White House does have a Blue Room inside, as well as a Red Room and a Green Room.

6. False. Flamingos' diet of shellfish makes them that pretty pink shade. Without the shellfish, flamingos would be white.



7. True! A polar bear's dark skin helps it soak up as much warmth as possible from the sun. The white fur helps camouflage the bear as it hunts.

8. True! That's why the gold-covered domes on churches and state capitol buildings gleam as if they were brand-new.

9. True! The stripes make zebras' bodies hard to recognize from far away, and the stripes also confuse predators because they can't single out any one zebra. Scientists also believe that zebra stripes are like identity badges—zebras are social animals, and the stripes help zebras spot their own kind. ★

Illustrations: Mary Lynn Blasutta

Color Your World

Try these 50 ways to add color to your life!

2 Make a pretty picture using every color of marker that you own.

3 Add polka-dot stickers to the next envelope you mail.

1 Wear your hair in pigtails using different-colored hair elastics all the way down.

4 Make a really red smoothie. Use all the red fruits you can think of. Add a scoop of strawberry sherbet.

5 Mix and match the sheets on your bed.

6 Make a trendy trash can. Cut strips of felt with pinking shears. Attach with tacky glue.

7 Tie colored ribbons around your stuffed animals and dolls.

8 Wear mismatched pajamas to bed. Stripes and polka-dots make a perfect combination.

9 Turn your dinner plate into a rainbow of color. Healthy eating equals lots of colorful foods. Go to page 7 for some tasty ideas.

10 Place a brightly colored bathroom rug next to your bed.

11 Use bandannas as place mats for your family's dinner.

12 Tie a rainbow of ribbons around a clean jar. Add a bright daisy and place on your desk for a dash of sunshine.

13 Hang a boldly patterned shower curtain over your window as a regular curtain.

14 Make a fuzzy bulletin board! Use tacky glue to attach a variety of pom-poms to a plain corkboard.

15 Make a tote bag bright and bold with colorful pins and appliqués.

Photos: Salisbury Studios, Steven Talley Styling: Carrie Griffin Boyd, Cindy Stutzel

16 Draw a little design on your friend's cheek using face paint. Have her do the same to you. Wear the designs while cheering on the sidelines of your brother's soccer match.

17 Turn a plain frame into something snazzy. Use tacky glue to attach rhinestones to the border of the frame.

18 Create a new name for a color that is totally you! **Jenn's Jazzy Jasmine Lemon Lovin' Lizzy**

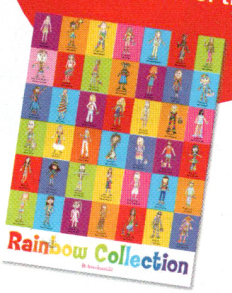
19 Use a colorful gift bag as your lunch bag.

20 Fill your flip-flops with color. Tie colorful ribbons around the straps.

21 Dig out your summer tank top and layer it over a colorful T-shirt.

22 Send a package full of blue things to someone far away. **"I'm blue without you!"**

23 Hang the colorful poster (included in this issue!) filled with rainbow fashions in your bedroom. Or grab your markers and color the back.



24 Make colorful ice cubes. Prepare a pitcher of punch. Pour into ice-cube trays and freeze. Serve the cubes with ginger ale at your next sleepover!

25 Organize a group photo of you and your friends all wearing different colors.

26

Give the inside cover of your notebook a shock of color. Cover it with stickers. They'll make you smile every time you open your notebook!

27 Paint a colorful little picture on a rock. Give the rock to your dad to keep on his desk for an instant smile!

28 Make rainbow fruit kabobs—strawberries, mandarin oranges, pineapple, kiwi, blueberries, and purple grapes!

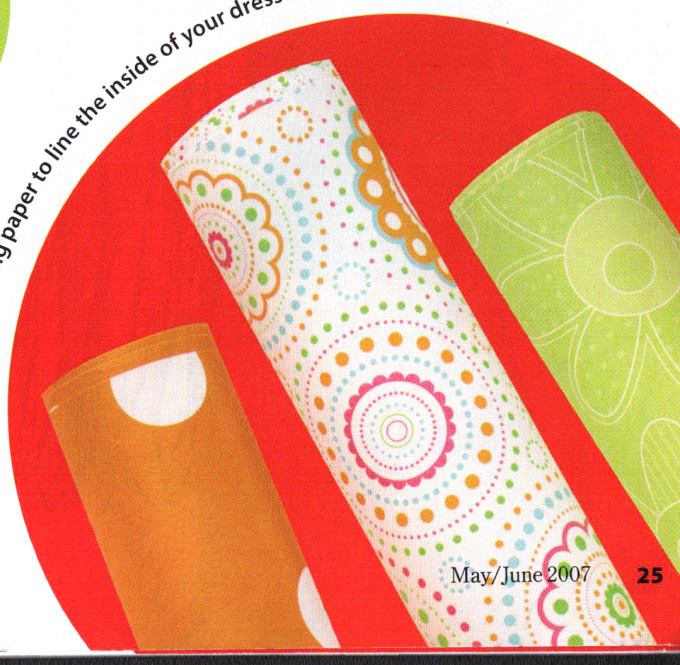
29 Hang crepe-paper streamers in front of your window.

30 Make colorfully frosted cupcakes for your mom or dad to take to work.

31 Make a notepad filled with color. Cut scraps of paper left over from old projects into same-sized pieces. Stack them up and hold together with a clip. Keep them next to the phone for messages.

32 Ask an adult to help you drape colored twinkle lights over a sturdy plant.

33 Use wrapping paper to line the inside of your dresser drawers.



34 Use a different colored pen each day of the week.

35 Create colorful initial magnets for your family's fridge. Paint wooden letters (available at craft stores). Let dry and decorate with rhinestones. Glue magnets to the back. Let dry, and hang!

36 Use fabric markers to doodle designs on a pair of plain old sneakers.

37 Add a dash of color to your jeans. Tie different-colored ribbons around your waist as a belt.

38 Write a poem bursting with color. See page 6 for inspiration.

39 Rent an old movie filled with color. Try "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" or "The Wizard of Oz."

40 Make a collage of your mom's favorite color and give it to her to put on her desk.

41 Make a simple wind sock streaming with color. Cut strips of ribbon and secure inside of an embroidery hoop. Ask an adult to hang it in your room.

42 Put your hair in a ponytail and tie bright shades of ribbons around the hair elastic.

43

Cut-out cookies don't have to be saved for the holidays. Decorate spring sugar cookies with colorful frosting and sprinkles.

44

Wear your most colorful outfit on a cloudy day.

45

Try a bright berry sorbet instead of vanilla ice cream. Add a few candy sprinkles on top!

46

Hang a colorful garland (available at party supply stores) around your window.

47

Ask an adult to replace the plain light bulb in your lamp with a colored one.

48

Use colored sidewalk chalk to leave a cheery message for your family before they enter the house.

49

Wear crazy colorful socks at your next sleepover. Have your friends do the same!

50

Enter to win a big box of color. Turn to page 2 for more info. ★

Cooking

Colorful Cake

Surprise your friends with a cake that looks like a sky on the outside and a rainbow on the inside!

YOU WILL NEED

- An adult to help you
- 1 box white cake mix
- Eggs and vegetable oil (to follow directions on the back of the cake-mix box)
- 4 different flavors of Jell-O gelatin mix (don't use grape)
- 2 16-ounce cans of frosting, 1 yellow and 1 white
- Blue food coloring
- Butter for greasing pans
- Flour for dusting pans

1 Ask an adult to preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare cake mix following directions on package. Divide batter equally into 4 bowls, about 1 cup batter per bowl.

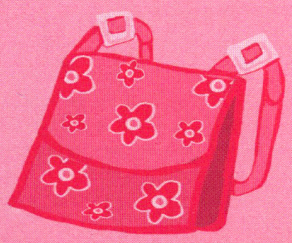
2 Mix 1 tablespoon Jell-O powder into each bowl, one color per bowl. Stir until blended. Some cake mixes take the color better than others. Add a little more Jell-O powder to get brighter colors. We used cherry, orange, lime, and Berry Blast Jell-O flavors in that order, from top to bottom.

3 Pour batter into greased and floured round cake pans, 1 color per pan. Ask an adult to help you bake for about 15 minutes, until cake springs back when touched lightly in center. Cool 5 minutes and remove from pans.

Tip: If you have only 2 cake pans, bake 2 colors at a time, and then grease and flour pans again.

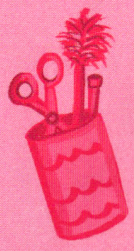
4 When cake is completely cool, spread yellow frosting between layers. Scoop white frosting into a bowl (save ¼ cup for the white clouds) and add about 6 drops of blue food coloring. Stir until blended. Cover outside of cake with blue frosting. Use a butter knife to spread white frosting clouds around the cake.

Photo: Howard Bjornson Styling: Carrie Griffin Boyd, Tobe Lemoine



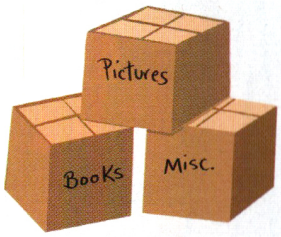
Ally Ackerman, In the Pink

by Kathleen O'Dell



When cousin Gabby arrives, she makes Ally's world a LOT more colorful. But is that a good thing?

Ally Ackerman packed up the last box of odds and ends from her attic bedroom. Her closet stood half-empty, with all her things pushed to one side. The low-pitched ceiling had always made the space seem cramped. All Ally needed to do was to pump up the inflatable bed and everything would be ready for her cousin Gabby to arrive.



Ally's mom came in with some extra sheets. "Heavens," she said. "It looks deserted in here."

"I know," Ally said, "but once I started, I couldn't stop. I kept thinking how I'd feel if I had to move into someone else's room with all her stuff. The point is to let Gabby feel it's her room, too. Right?"

"Right," said Mrs. Ackerman. "Although I'm glad to see you've let Hudson hang around."

Ally picked up her old, tattered teddy bear. "He stays with me," she said. "I can't even imagine putting him in the garage."

"You're a softie," said Mrs. Ackerman, putting her arm around Ally's shoulder. "I think Gabby is very lucky to have a cousin like you."

Ally smiled. She thought Gabby was sort of lucky, too.

When Mrs. Ackerman had first announced Gabby's arrival, Ally hadn't been so happy. She had been sharing a room with her little brother, Matthew, while her parents were finishing this attic bedroom for her. She was just getting used to her new space. Now Gabby needed a place to stay for a month while her mom took care of her grandmother in Dallas. And Gabby's dad couldn't help because he was in the National Guard, stationed overseas.

"Believe me," Ally's mom had said, "I wouldn't be asking you to share if it wasn't necessary. There's nowhere else for her to go."

Ally sat on her bed and folded her arms. She hadn't seen Gabby since the family reunion three years ago. At that time Gabby had been a skinny little girl whose pigtails came undone because she was always hanging upside down on something. And that's about all that Ally remembered about her.

"She won't be going to school with you or anything," continued Mrs. Ackerman. "Her teacher has agreed to let her do her homework here and turn it in online. She's bringing her own laptop."

"So how will she make friends?" Ally asked.

"Well," said Mrs. Ackerman, "I was hoping you could help. To tell you the truth, Aunt Bonnie and I were just talking about that. Their family has been through a lot lately. We're a little worried about Gabby feeling abandoned."

Abandoned. The word reminded Ally of babies left on doorsteps or Snow White banished by the Wicked Queen to a dark fairy-tale forest. "All right," she told her mother. "I'll help."

From then on, whenever Ally felt grumpy or nervous about sharing her little room, she put herself in Gabby's shoes. "I have an obnoxious little brother and a tiny bedroom, but at least I don't feel abandoned," she'd say to herself.

She thought up ways to divide her room so that

Illustrations: Cathi Mingus

both girls had equal space. She even decided to let Gabby pick which side she wanted, to help make her feel less like a temporary boarder.

Most importantly, she enlisted her best friend, Sarah Jane, to make their twosome a threesome. "Gabby will probably be homesick," Ally told her. "I want to make sure to include her in all our stuff."

"Sure!" said Sarah Jane. "Bring her over and we can bake chocolate-chip cookies or something."

"You mean we can eat chocolate chips," said Ally, laughing. "I don't think we ever actually end up baking much of anything."

"Then we will teach her our ways," Sarah Jane said, doing her zombie imitation. "She shall become one of us."

"Poor girl," Ally said, laughing. "She doesn't know what she's getting into."

Ally was busy smoothing the sheets on the new inflatable mattress when she heard voices outside. She went to the dormer window and peered out, expecting to see a lost, skinny little kid. Instead, she was surprised to see how much taller Gabby was than when Ally had seen her at the family reunion three years ago.

"Wow," Ally said to herself. Gabby beat her by three inches, at least.

But when Aunt Bonnie opened the back of her van, Ally was tempted to rub her eyes. Gabby unloaded a giant hot pink rolling suitcase, a bright pink tote bag, a pink purse, two bubble-gum pink file boxes, a selection of pink tennis shoes, and a giant stuffed rhino made of shocking pink plush.

Ally stared. Gabby looked up at the window, smiled, and waved wildly. Ally waved back and watched as her mom, Aunt Bonnie, and Gabby made their way inside.

"Hellooo!" called Gabby as she scrambled upstairs. "Ally?"

She appeared in the doorway toting a pink backpack and canvas bag. "My gosh, you haven't changed at ALL," she said.

Aunt Bonnie bumped the suitcase over the threshold and ran to give Ally a hug. "Oh, sweetheart," she said. "So nice of you to do this for us."

"It's O.K.," Ally said. "Really."

"Well, I hope you like pink!" Aunt Bonnie exclaimed.

Ally paused. What she wanted to say was that pink gave her a stomach ache. That she avoided pink at every opportunity—which is a challenge for a girl. That pink reminded her of the vacation when she got carsick reading in the backseat and her mother gave her some gummy pink "tummy medicine" that she immediately threw up, staining the backseat upholstery in their van forever.

But Ally's mom gave her a warning look. "Pink's

fine," she assured Aunt Bonnie.

"Pink is *awesome,"* Gabby corrected.

Pink stinks, thought Ally. Then she caught herself. "I never knew there were so many kinds of pink," she said.

Gabby unzipped her pink computer case. "Yeah. It's my signature color. I wanted a laptop in pink, but they were sold out."

"That's too bad," Ally said. "Anyway, I want to let you know that you can choose which side of the room you want."

"I never knew there were so many kinds of pink," Ally said.

"Thanks! I'm so relieved," Gabby said, throwing her backpack onto Ally's bed. "I hate sleeping on the floor."

Shoot, thought Ally as she sank onto the inflatable mattress. Now the floor was going to be hers for the next four weeks.

After Aunt Bonnie left for the airport, Gabby immediately began setting up her side of the room.

"How can you live with these bare walls?" she asked Ally. "It looks like nobody lives here."

"I'm still deciding what I want to do," Ally said. "I haven't had the attic very long."

"Well, I couldn't stand it," Gabby said, dropping Hudson to the floor and covering the bed with her pink-polka-dotted sleeping bag. "I sort of need personality in a room."

"Hmmm," Ally said, picking up her bear and dusting him off. "That right?"

"I guess we're all different. You've always been pretty quiet, haven't you?"

"Yeah," said Ally, wincing slightly as Gabby fluffed up a selection of pink patchwork pillows and arranged them on the bed. "Let's take a break. Let's…go get a soda or something."

"Sure," Gabby said brightly. "I mean, I've got a whole month to unpack all the rest of this junk!"

Over the following days, Ally realized that there might be some advantages to having another girl in the house. Matthew was immediately charmed by Gabby and did anything she asked. "I can't believe he let us change the channel in the middle of *SpongeBob,*" Ally said. "It's a miracle!"

Gabby lifted an eyebrow. "I guess babysitting experience pays in more ways than one," she said.

Gabby was also full of cool ideas. For instance, one time she persuaded Mrs. Ackerman to let her collect all the candles from around the house and place them in the dining room for a spooky candlelight dinner. She had a vast collection of cool music that she'd play for Ally with her iPod and adorable little speaker system. Even Sarah Jane agreed that having Gabby around was a good thing.

"She's so funny," Sarah Jane said after Gabby showed them a thick pink journal full of funny poems she'd written and illustrated herself. "You guys must laugh all the time."

"I guess we do laugh more at my house than we used to," Ally said. At least her mother laughed more. Gabby wrote silly poems especially for Ally's mom and left them on the kitchen table for her in the morning. And now the fridge was so crowded with Gabby's stuff, Ally's and Matthew's school photos were completely covered.

None of this bothered Matthew. He insisted on sitting by Gabby at the dinner table every night.

"He worships her, obviously," Sarah Jane said. "The way he follows her around? He's practically her servant."

"At least he's not bothering ME anymore," Ally declared. Never mind that she'd overheard him saying just this morning that he wished Gabby were his sister. Ally and Matthew didn't really get along, anyway.

In short, Gabby was interesting. She was fun. She was inventive. She had a happy energy that she applied to everything. "Yeah, she's great!" Ally found herself saying over and over.

There was one thing, however, that Ally had to admit finding a little irritating, and that was the pink. She was careful at first to pick up the pink tennis shoes and place them on Gabby's side of the room, and she managed to restack Gabby's file boxes in a far corner, where they'd be less visible first thing in the morning. But day after day, pink kept reappearing in Ally's space.

"Do you think that maybe we can keep our things on our own sides of the room?" Ally asked as she tossed Gabby's pink throw pillows back to the opposite wall. "I don't mean to be picky."

"I'm sorry," Gabby said. "It's just that..." She sat up and pushed a hefty book across the bed. "It's one thing to read *These, Our Americas* when you're sitting in a classroom. But here, alone, with all these white walls? It feels a little bit like prison."

Ally felt stung. Sure, her walls were plain, but her room was still cool.

Ally felt stung. Sure, her walls were plain, but her room was still cool. A prison? Hardly. "Well, I'm not saying you can't decorate," Ally said. Then her eye traveled to the foot of the bed and her own Hudson. He was wearing a funky pink scarf around his neck and an oversized pair of rose pink mittens on his paws.

"You noticed your bear's new look, huh?" Gabby said, smiling. "Doesn't he look cute? I knitted those myself. Like I said, I've been awful bored while you're away. It came to me that it might help if there was more to look at on the other side of the room," Gabby said.

"Oh," Ally said.

"And when you think about it, your side is kind of my side. Because it's my view, you know? Besides, the room is so small! We might as well make it more interesting all over."

"It's not that small," Ally said. "I don't know. It didn't bother *me* the way it was before."

"Give me a chance, then!" Gabby said. "I have more ideas. You'll see."

Ally gritted her teeth. She didn't feel like arguing, so she just went downstairs and did her homework down there.

The next afternoon after school, Ally had a violin lesson and was late coming home. As usual, she made her way upstairs to drop off her backpack. Tonight, though, she was completely unprepared for what she was about to see.

"Gabby! What's going on here?" Ally asked.

A bunch of Gabby's pink throw pillows were scattered around the floor. A fuzzy pink blanket was folded across the foot of Ally's mattress. Pink ribbons were tied around various objects—from Ally's hairbrush to her pencil cup. Above her bed was a collage of pictures cut from magazines and catalogs, including pink daisies, pink shoes, and pink lips. To top it off, her bedside lamp now had a pink lightbulb in it, bathing the entire room in a pink glow.

"What do you think?" Gabby asked, smiling. "Sarah Jane and I worked on that collage for hours. It's our surprise for you!"

"Sarah Jane was here?" Ally asked.

"Yeah. She knew you had your lesson, so she called me. I figured she and I could make a project out of this place. We had a blast."

"A blast," repeated Ally.

"I like her a lot," said Gabby, busily cutting out more pink pictures from a magazine and humming to her music. "She says she agrees that the room looks one hundred percent better."

It occurred to Ally that a stranger walking into this room wouldn't know that she lived here at all! She gazed at poor Hudson with his ridiculous pink mittens and felt as if she might scream.

Ally marched over, picked up her bear, flung off his pink scarf, and clicked off the music.

Gabby looked up sharply, and when she caught her cousin's expression, her face fell. "What's the matter?" she asked.

"Hudson hates pink!" Ally shouted. "And so do I!"

Gabby's jaw dropped. "You never said you didn't like pink."

"Well, I should have." Ally gestured toward the collage. "And this…this thing gives me nightmares!"

"How was I supposed to know?" Gabby asked. "You said I could decorate."

"Maybe I was just being nice!" Ally shouted. "You know—polite?"

Gabby went quiet, put down her scissors, and picked up her bag. Then she stood and clumped down the stairs. Ally heard the back door open and shut. She rushed to the window and watched as Gabby walked across the yard.

Ally sat at her desk and tried to read. As the light outside dimmed and Mrs. Ackerman began cooking dinner, Ally started to worry. Although she had her room to herself now, it didn't feel all that good. What must Gabby think? True, Ally hadn't given any warning of just how upset she was. In fact, Ally hadn't been able to admit to herself how strongly she felt until just now.

The tree branches began to sway outside the attic window as the wind picked up. Ally put on a jacket, unwound Hudson's scarf, and tucked it in her pocket. She pushed past Matthew downstairs and went out the back door.

"Gabby!" she called. Gabby didn't look up. She was sitting at the patio table and straining her eyes in the dark over her social studies book.

Ally approached and saw Gabby shivering. She took the pink scarf from her pocket and placed it over Gabby's shoulders.

"I'm sorry," Ally said. "I don't like pink, Gabby—but I really like you."

"Way to show it," Gabby mumbled.

"I know," Ally said. "I wasn't fair. I should have said something earlier."

"I've been driving you crazy," Gabby said.

Ally sat down and sighed. "It's not your fault. You've been so much fun. A lot more fun than I am—which I totally didn't expect. I didn't know you'd have this big personality."

"A big PINK personality," Gabby said.

"Maybe I started feeling like I was disappearing in your big pink shadow," Ally said, smiling. "Want to come back inside?"

"O.K.," Gabby said. "If you think it's hard reading *These, Our Americas* in a plain white room all by yourself, try reading it outside in the dark."

"Come on," said Ally.

Ally followed Gabby back upstairs and watched as she took the collage off the wall above Ally's bed and set it on the floor. Then Ally picked it up and taped it to the wall on Gabby's side.

"You're letting me keep it?" Gabby asked.

"As long as I get to do my side in my own style," said Ally. "Or no style, if you know what I mean."

Gabby took back the pillows and picked up her pink tennis shoes. But when she went over to Hudson and pulled off a pink mitten, Ally said, "Stop." Gabby stopped. "He doesn't mind the mittens," Ally said.

"You're kidding, aren't you?" Gabby asked.

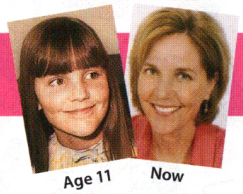
"Nope. It's all right," Ally said. "Let's keep him in pink for a little while." She held Hudson out toward Gabby. "Friends?" she asked.

"Friends," said Gabby, shaking his paw.

For the next two weeks, the room stayed happily divided between pink and not-pink. And when Gabby left, Ally tried hard not to cry.

As for Hudson, he's still wearing the mittens Gabby gave him. He's decided the color reminds him of Gabby. And now Ally's beginning to see it his way—a little bit of pink may not be such a bad thing after all. ★

Meet the Author



Kathleen O'Dell

I love pink, but I can understand why someone else might not. When I wrote this story, I tried to imagine what it would be like to be forced to live with a color you cannot stand. Personally, I think all colors are beautiful—in the right setting.

Brainwaves

activities and puzzles

A Purple Party

Princess Penelope's party is practically popping with p's. Look at this scene and make a list of all the things that start with **p.** There are at least 50!

Colorful Crossword

See if you can find 15 colors hidden in this rainbow!
Words run up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.

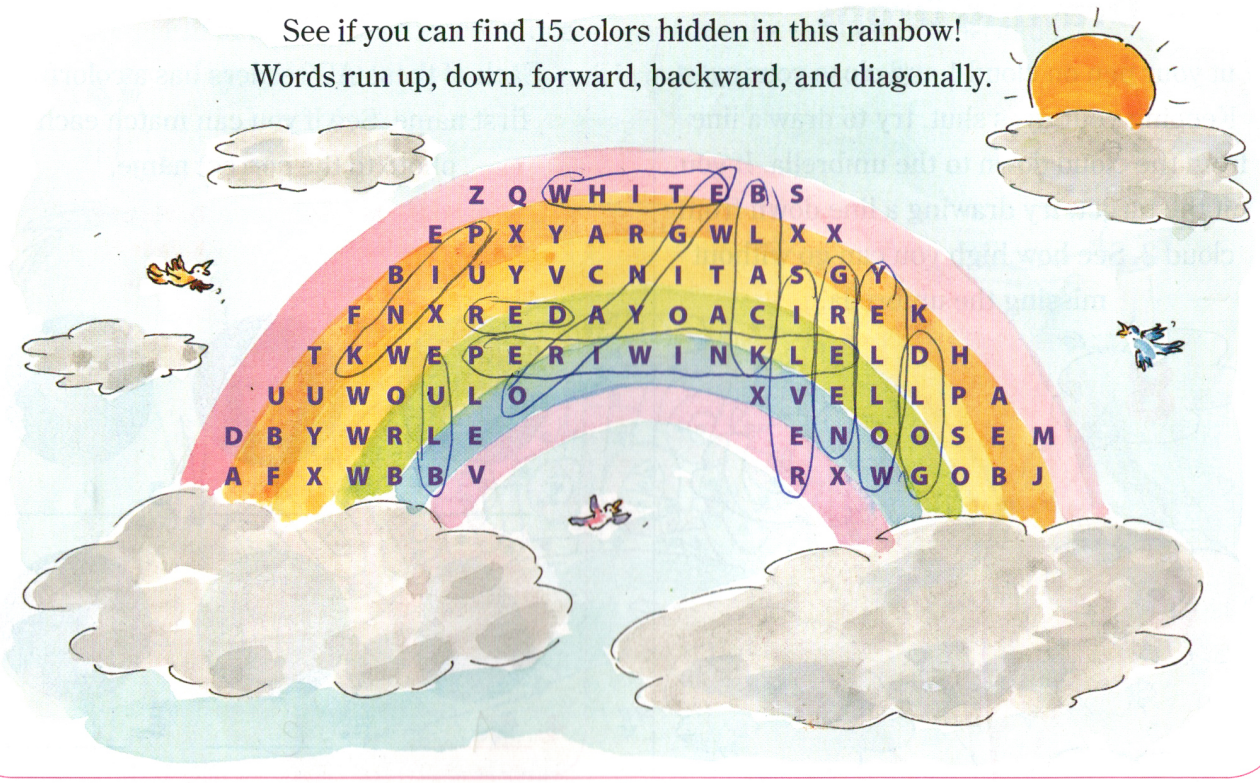
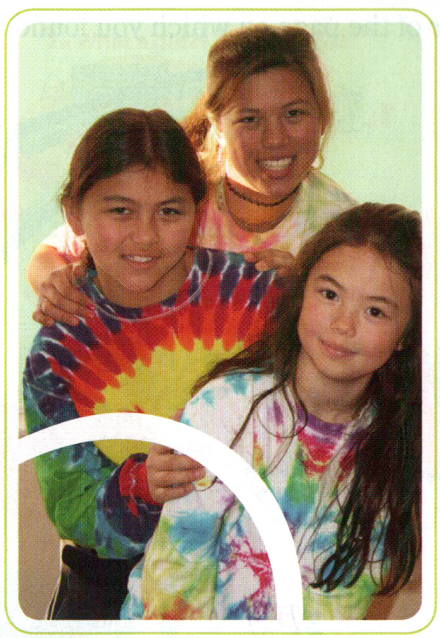
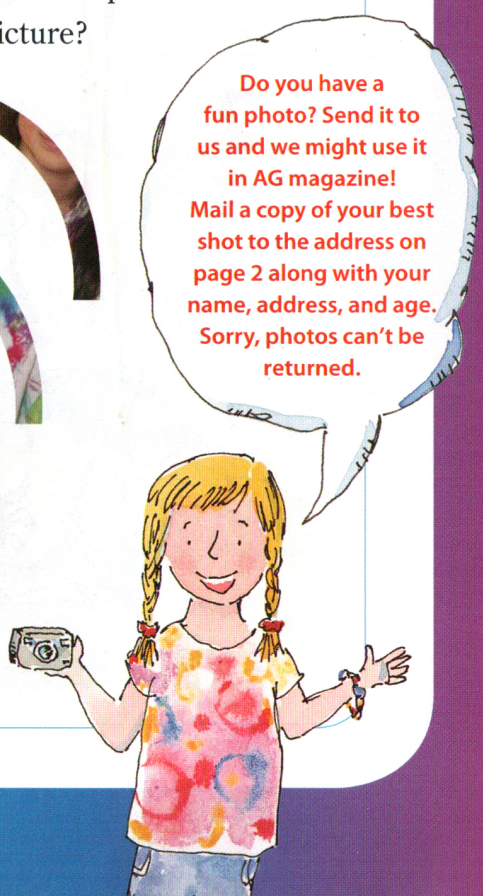

Z Q W H I T E B S
E P X Y A R G W L X X
B I U Y V C N I T A S G Y
F N X R E D A Y O A C I R E K
T K W E P E R I W I N K L E L D H
U U W O U L O X V E L L P A
D B Y W R L E E N O O S E M
A F X W B B V R X W G O B J

Photo Fun

Sisters Sami, Jasmine, and Tessa N. of Alaska sent us this kaleidoscopic shot.
Can you figure out which rainbow completes the picture?

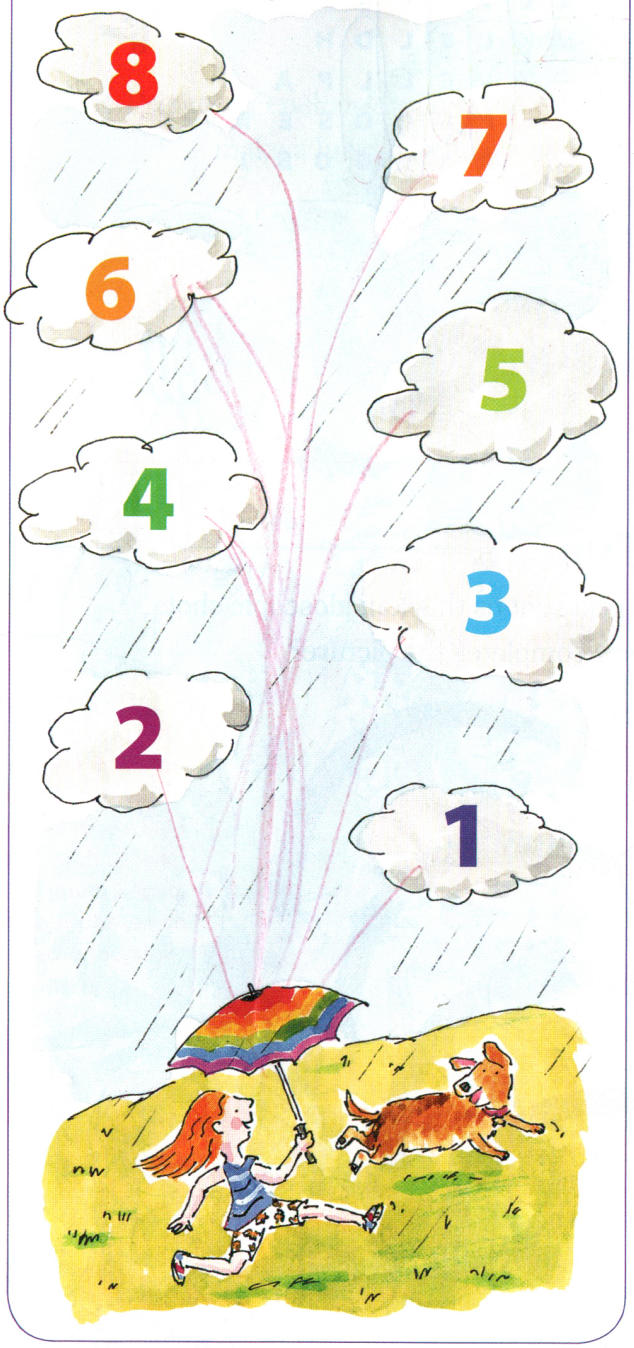



Do you have a fun photo? Send it to us and we might use it in AG magazine! Mail a copy of your best shot to the address on page 2 along with your name, address, and age. Sorry, photos can't be returned.

Illustrations: Paul Meisel

Drawing Drops

Put your pen on cloud 1 and close your eyes. Keeping your eyes shut, try to draw a line from the cloud down to the umbrella. If you hit the target, try drawing a line down from cloud 2. See how high you can go without missing the umbrella.



Name Game

Each of these AG readers has a colorful first name. See if you can match each photo to the correct name.

A. Amber M.
B. Sapphire F.
C. Amethyst S.
D. Violet P.
E. Jade F.
F. Ivy G.

1. F

2. D

3. B

4. A

5. E

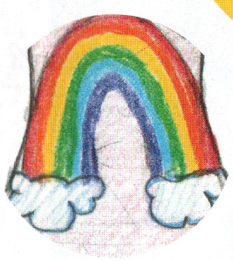
6. C

Art Sleuth

Search the pages of this issue to find each rainbow shown below. Write down the number of the page on which you found it.

1. 50

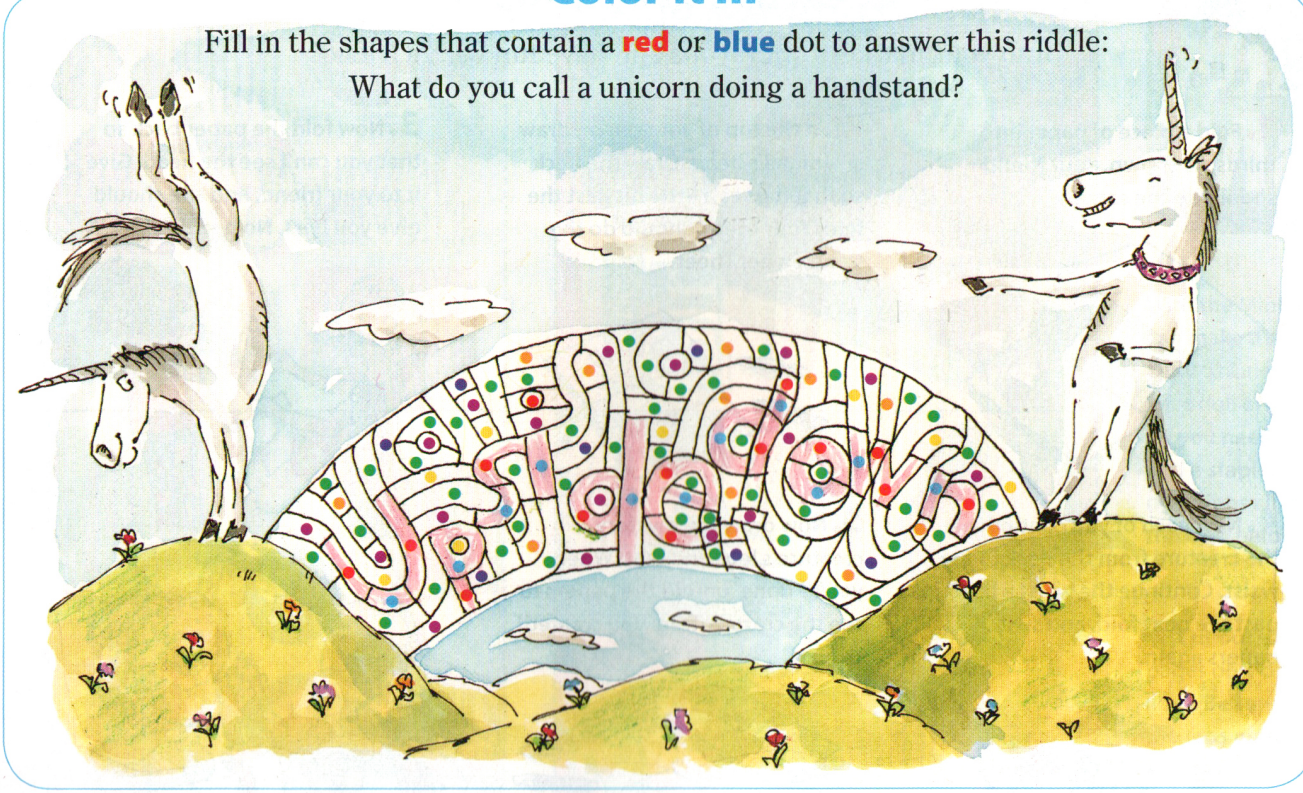
2. 8



3. 49

Color It In

Fill in the shapes that contain a **red** or **blue** dot to answer this riddle:
What do you call a unicorn doing a handstand?



Colorful Language

Each clue describes a colorful phrase, like "red in the face" or "green with envy."
We've given you the color. Just fill in the blanks!

1. What a great gardener has
a green thumb

2. Down in the dumps
feeling blue

3. A lunch sack
brown bag

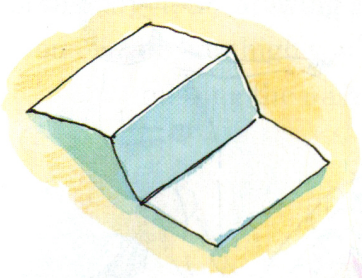
4. Very pleased
tickled pink

5. A strange gift
white elephant

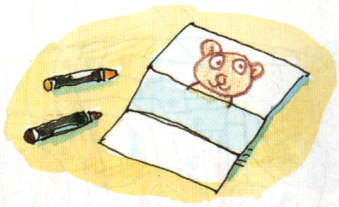
Creature Creations

Grab your markers or crayons and have fun with a friend!

1. Fold a piece of paper into thirds, as shown. Your friend should do the same.

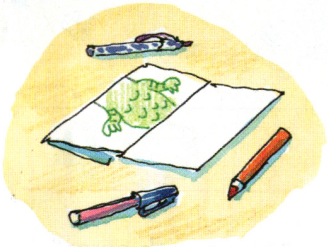


2. At the top of your paper, draw an animal's head. Draw the neck so that it goes a little bit past the fold. Your friend should do the same on her sheet.

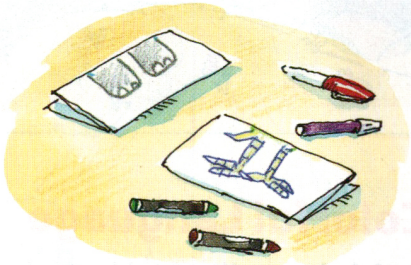


3. Now fold the paper back so that you can't see the head. Give it to your friend, and she should give you hers. No peeking!

4. Now each of you continues the creature from the neck to the waist. Continue the waist a little past the next fold, and switch papers again.



5. Now draw the mystery creature's legs and feet. When you're done, unfold the papers to see the crazy critters you created!



Answer Box

A Purple Party

Some of the things we saw were: paint cans, paint, paintbrush, painter, pants, pine tree, pitchfork, putter, putting green, pigeons, penguin, panda, palm tree, pots, pans, pelican, pencil, pajamas, pillows, pillowcases, pillow fight, plaid, presents, packages, pumpkin, paddles, ping-pong ball, ping-pong table, porcupine, punch, punch bowl, pretzels, pie, prince, princess, parade, pirate, patch, piano, plant, performer, pilgrim, pancakes, plate, pig, piglets, pyramid, pool, pug, pipe, pineapple, peanut, penny, peacock, and purple

Colorful Crossword

The hidden words are black, blue, brown, gold, gray, green, orange, periwinkle, pink, purple, red, silver, tan, white and yellow

Photo Fun

Rainbow B

Name Game

1. F; 2. D; 3. B; 4. A; 5. E; 6. C

Girls Express

Color confusion: 1. D; 2. E; 3. B; 4. A; 5. F; 6. C; 7. G

Art Sleuth

1. back cover; 2. page 8; 3. page 49

Buzzword

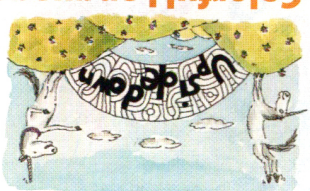
Kaleidoscopic is used on page 39.

Colorful Language

1. a green thumb; 2. feeling blue; 3. brown bag; 4. tickled pink; 5. white elephant

Color It In

The answer is: upside down



Illustrations: Susan McAliley

Quiz
Why Are Jeans Blue?
and other color mysteries
It takes 570 gallons of paint—white, of course—to cover the outside of the White House.
1. Blue cloth is used for jeans because brown wasn't comfy.
True False
2. Most babies are born with blue eyes.
True False
3. Colored toothpaste cleans your teeth better than plain white toothpaste does.
True False
4. The color orange was named after the fruit.
True False
5. The White House used to have blue trim.
True False
6. Flamingos' feathers are colored pink to protect their fragile skin from the sun.
True False
7. A polar bear's fur looks white, but its skin is black.
True False
8. Real gold will never tarnish or lose its rich color.
True False
9. Zebras' black and white stripes help them blend into their habitat.
True False

A

Extra Chunky Funky, chunky letters with style.
Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj
Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt
Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz 1234567890 ?!
Balloney Balloon-shaped letters say, "Let's celebrate!"
Petal Power Pick a bouquet or let a garden grow.

Color Your World
Try these 50 ways to add color to your life!
1 Wear your hair in pigtails using different-colored hair elastics all the way down.
2 Make a pretty picture using every color of marker that you own.
3 Add polka-dot stickers to the next envelope you mail.
4 Make a really red smoothie. Use all red fruits you can think of. Add a scoop of strawberry sherbet.
5 Mix and match the sheets on your bed.
6 Make a trendy trash can. Cut strips of felt with pinking shears. Attach with tacky glue.

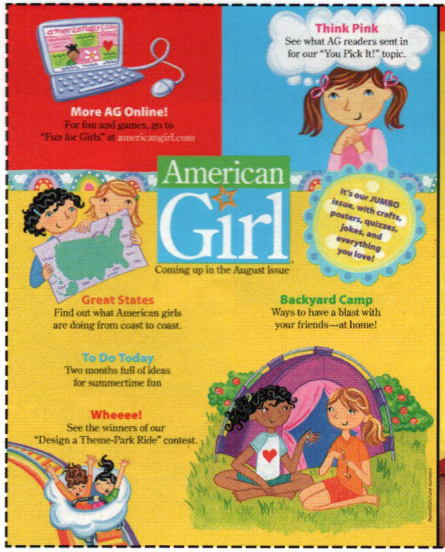
Sometimes I'm a light blue, like the early morning sky after sunrise—calm and serene. Other days I'm a vivid blue—the brightest blue you can imagine. I'm very perky on those days!
Kaylee H.
Age 11, Arizona
Big Truth
The true you always shines the brightest.
I am hot pink! I love acting and being in front of huge crowds. I'm always willing to try something new. I've always wanted to go sky-diving or bungee jumping.
Nora S.
Age 11, Maryland
Speak from Your Heart
Next subject: Winter birthdays. Celebrating a birthday during the holidays can be tough. Is your birthday overshadowed by Hanukkah, Christmas, or New Year's? What is the best and worst part about sharing your day with a holiday? How do you make your birthday special? Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to the address on page 2. Deadline: June 11, 2007. Some answers will appear in the November/December 2007 issue.
If I had to describe myself as a color, I would definitely be red. I have a quick temper, I always say what I am thinking, and I am very bold and daring. All of these characteristics match the color red.
Breana R.
Age 11, Florida
All girls are all of the colors of the rainbow. We show lots of emotions every day. Sometimes we are bold and daring, like red. Sometimes we are yellow—smiling and happy. I know that I am not just one color!
Rachel W.
Age 13, Virginia
Real Girl

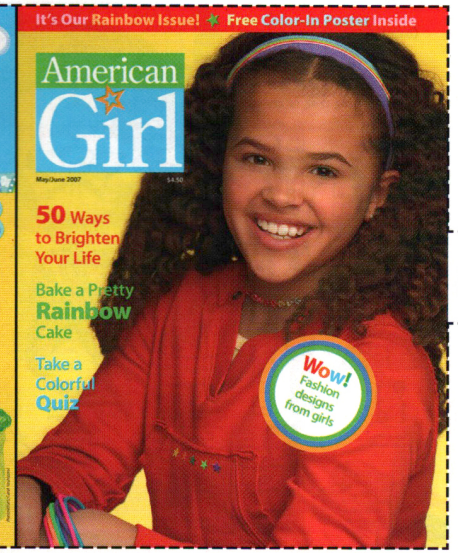
B

Cooking
Colorful Cake
Surprise your friends with a cake that looks like a sky on the outside and a rainbow on the inside!
YOU WILL NEED
An adult to help you
1 box white cake mix
Eggs and vegetable oil (to follow directions on the back of the cake-mix box)
4 different flavors of Jell-O gelatin mix (don't use grape)
2 16-ounce cans of frosting, 1 yellow and 1 white
Blue food coloring
Butter for greasing pans
Flour for dusting pans
1 Ask an adult to preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare cake mix following directions on package. Divide batter equally into 4 bowls, about 1 cup batter per bowl.
2 Mix 1 tablespoon Jell-O powder into each bowl, one color per bowl. Stir until blended. Some cake mixes take the color better than others. Add a little more Jell-O powder to get brighter colors. We used cherry, orange, lime, and Berry Blue Jell-O flavors in that order, from top to bottom.
3 Pour batter into greased and floured round cake pans, 1 color per pan. Ask an adult to help you bake for about 15 minutes, until cake springs back when touched lightly in center. Cool 5 minutes and remove from pans.
Tip: If you have only 2 cake pans, bake 2 colors at a time, and then grease and flour pans again.
4 When cake is completely cool, spread yellow frosting between layers. Scoop white frosting into a bowl (save ¼ cup for the white clouds) and add about 6 drops of blue food coloring. Stir until blended. Cover outside of cake with blue frosting. Use a butter knife to spread white frosting clouds around the cake.
American Girl

Sara L. Age 12, New Hampshire
Teresa L. Age 9, Ohio
Hayley D. Age 12, Virginia
Next Contest: Snowless Snowmen
Why wait for another cold and snowy winter to build a snowman? Sculpt a snowman out of anything but snow—sand, tomatoes, basketballs—the more creative, the better! Make sure to tell us the name of your fake Frosty. Send your photos to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, and birth date. Deadline: June 11, 2007. Winners will appear in the November/December 2007 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.

C


More AG Online!
For fun and games, go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com
Think Pink
See what AG readers sent in for our "You Pick It!" topic.
American Girl
Coming up in the August issue
It's our JUMBO issue, with crafts, posters, quizzes, jokes, and everything you love!
Great States
Find out what American girls are doing from coast to coast.
Backyard Camp
Ways to have a blast with your friends—at home!
To Do Today
Two months full of ideas for summertime fun
Wheeee!
See the winners of our "Design a Theme-Park Ride" contest.


It's Our Rainbow Issue! Free Color-In Poster Inside
American Girl
May/June 2007
$4.50
50 Ways to Brighten Your Life
Bake a Pretty Rainbow Cake
Take a Colorful Quiz
Wow! Fashion designs from girls

D

Mini Mag

With the Mini Mag, you can make a miniature copy of *American Girl* for your doll or stuffed animal. All you need are scissors and a stapler. Read the directions all the way through before you begin.

1 Cut out each pair of pages only on the dotted lines. Be sure to cut around the tabs marked with the letters A, B, C, and D.

2 Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown below, with the letters on the tabs facing up.

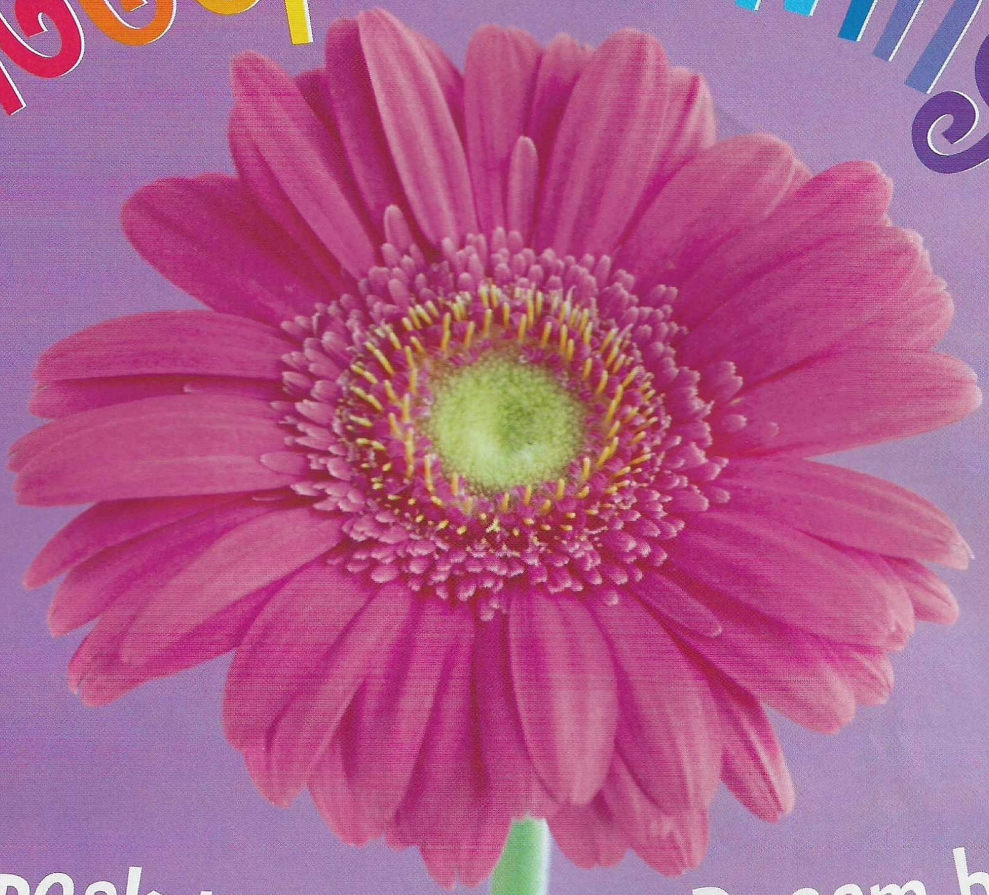
Continued

Mini Mag

3 Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. The cover of the magazine should now be on top. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat.

4 Open the folded stack. Staple along the center line. Cut off the tabs, and you're done!

Keep Growing!



Speak up.

Challenge yourself.

Set goals.

Dream big.

Take a chance.

Stand tall.

Photo: Jeanene Scott/Getty Images

American Girl®

Posters Carefully cut along the dotted lines to remove your posters.

I can make my future bright!
American Girl®
Photo: Beard & Howell/Getty Images

HELP!

Dear *American Girl,*

The girls at my school make fun of me because of the way I dress. I like to dress in bright and colorful clothes, but all the popular girls think they're ugly. How do I make them stop teasing me?

Colorful

Kudos to you for having your own sense of style. You know that it doesn't really matter what these bullies think, but no one likes being teased. The next time it happens, you could roll your eyes and walk away. Or you could say something like, "I don't care if you like my clothes. Stop making fun of me." You have to look confident for that to work, though. If you've tried to stop the teasing, but it continues for a few days, tell a teacher or parent what's going on.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

My brother broke my favorite bracelet! It was a Christmas present from my cousin, and it can't be replaced. What can I do?

Heartbroken

Your brother probably did not break your bracelet on purpose—sometimes accidents just happen. Try putting your energy into making your broken bracelet into another kind of keepsake. Could you restring the beads into a new necklace? Maybe you could make the bracelet into part of a picture frame. Talk to a parent for ideas. With a bit of creativity, you might make something you like almost as much as you liked the bracelet.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

Whenever I set a goal, it almost never gets done. When I set the goal, I'm always inspired and very strong. But when I don't accomplish it, I become upset.

goal breaker

It's wonderful to have big dreams, but it is disappointing when they don't work out. You can succeed by breaking each goal into smaller parts that you *know* you can do, and giving yourself deadlines. Once you've had success with smaller goals, you'll feel more confident tackling larger ones—and you'll be more likely to accomplish them.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

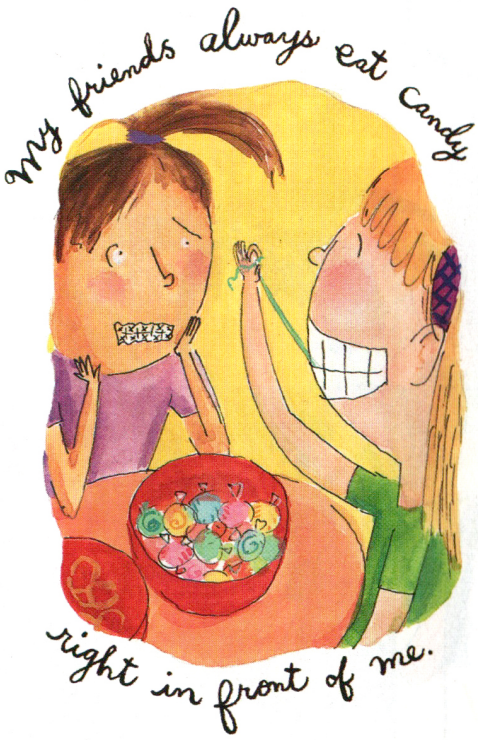
My dog Cinnamon died, and we got a new pup named Ginger. Every time I think of Cinnamon, it makes me feel guilty, like I'm replacing her. What should I do?

Guilty

Dogs have different personalities, and you can never *really* replace one with another. Cinnamon was a great dog, and you loved her. Ginger can grow up to be a great dog, too, but that doesn't mean you love Cinnamon any less. Giving another dog a good home is a nice way to honor Cinnamon—without replacing her. Trust that you have enough love in your heart for *both* of these dogs.

Illustrations: Laura Cornell

MORE HELP!



Dear *American Girl,*

I have braces. My friends always eat candy that I can't eat right in front of me. My mouth waters when I see it. What should I do?

Brace Face

When you're feeling blue about not having candy, remind yourself how bright your smile will be once your braces come off. Always keep safe snacks on hand so that you won't feel deprived when your friends start snacking. But if your friends are being obnoxious, ask them to stop. Say, "I go nuts watching you eat candy that I can't have. Would you mind saving it for when I'm not around?" That might help, but if not, then just enjoy your safe snack.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

My mother always sings along with songs in the car—even the ones she doesn't know! It is so annoying. How can I gently ask her to stop?

Annoyed

Your mom is enjoying herself, and admit it—she should be able to sing if she wants to. So instead of trying to change your mom, why not change the music? Maybe you can make a special CD or playlist of songs for the car that you and your mom both like. You might even feel like singing along, too.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

I easily get stressed out about schoolwork such as tests and projects. The funny thing is, I have never done badly on a test, and I always turn in quality projects on time. I have gotten a little bit better at not stressing out, but I still do. Can you help?

Stressed Out

Your stress level is something YOU control. The next time you feel stressed, give your stress level a number between one and ten. A one would be very low stress, and a ten would be very high. If you are stressing at a level seven or higher, you need to relax. Take a break, do something fun, and chill out for a while before you return to your work. And here's a test tip: take slow, deep breaths in through your nose and out through your mouth to stay calm. During the test, think positive thoughts, such as *I can do this.* Stay calm, and you will!

★

Advice from You

"If you have red hair like I do, and someone calls you 'carrot top,' just look surprised and say, 'I thought the tops of carrots were green!'"

Alyssa E.

Age 11, Indiana

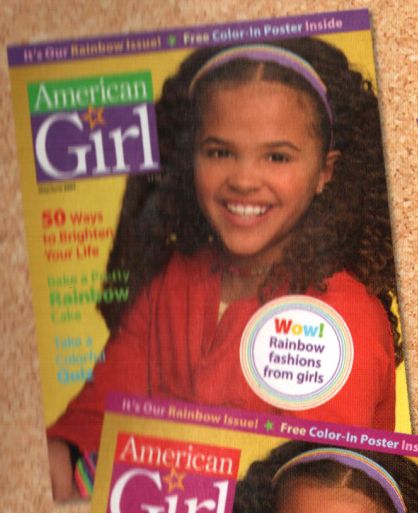
Need advice? Got advice? Write:

Help!

***American Girl* magazine**

8400 Fairway Place

Middleton, WI 53562


It's Our Rainbow Issue! ★ Free Color-In Poster Inside
American Girl
50 Ways to Brighten Your Life
Bake a Pretty Rainbow Cake
Take a Colorful Quiz
Wow! Rainbow fashions from girls

It's Our Rainbow Issue! ★ Free Color-In Poster Inside
American Girl
50 Ways to Brighten Your Life
Bake a Pretty Rainbow Cake
Take a Colorful Quiz
Wow! It's our rainbow issue

We designed many colorful covers to get the best one for this rainbow issue. Vote for your favorite at "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com.

Shalom N., age 10, from Montana, designed an outfit for this issue's Rainbow Fashion contest, and then her mom sewed it! "We even fixed up a pair of boots like I dreamed of," she said.

Go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com and see more creative designs.

Behind the Scenes

We saw so many great colors while making this special rainbow issue!

Thank you, Angela and Alison S., both age 13, of New Jersey! They sent us this adorable rainbow art. For more great letter art, go to americangirl.com and click on "Fun for Girls."

Kimberly K., age 10, from Michigan, sent in a drawing of this manatee, just like the one on page 18. See page 4 to find out how to send us your drawings, paintings, and other creations.

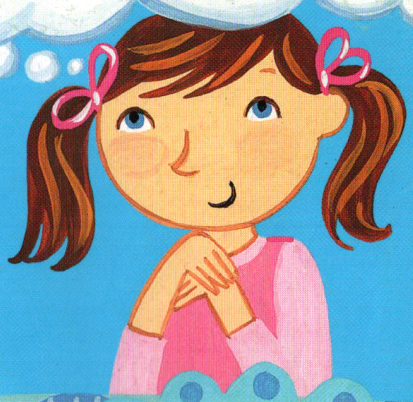
We've never had so many colorful clothes in one room! Aspyn, Bu, and Amanda mixed and matched options for "Color Your World."

We hope you liked our rainbow issue!
Do you have an idea for a themed issue?
Send your ideas to the address on page 2.

For more colorful fun, go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com!

Think Pink

See what AG readers sent in for our "You Pick It!" topic.

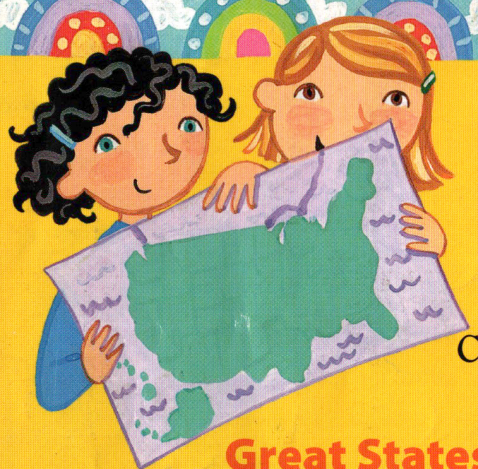


More AG Online!

For fun and games, go to "Fun for Girls" at americangirl.com.

American Girl®

It's our JUMBO issue, with crafts, posters, quizzes, jokes, and everything you love!



Coming up in the July/August issue

Great States

Find out what American girls are doing from coast to coast.

Backyard Camp

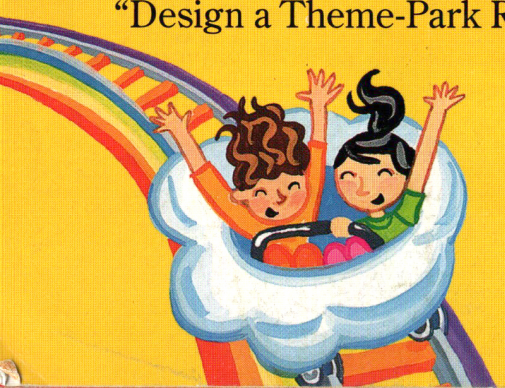
Ways to have a blast with your friends—at home!

To Do Today

Two months full of ideas for summertime fun

Wheeee!

See the winners of our "Design a Theme-Park Ride" contest.



Illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi

Rainbow Collection

American Girl®

Come in!
Little Shop of Color